Revealed. Ruto owns Ruai sewerage land, says man who manages his vast estate

Exclusive interview. Patrick Osero, a close business partner of the Deputy President, dismisses the move to repossess prime property as malicious because Ruto has a legitimate title deed. Osero says his boss will not contest government move. **Page 8**



The Standard

Kenya's Bold Newspaper

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National, P.6

How Mombasa port became epicentre of coronavirus

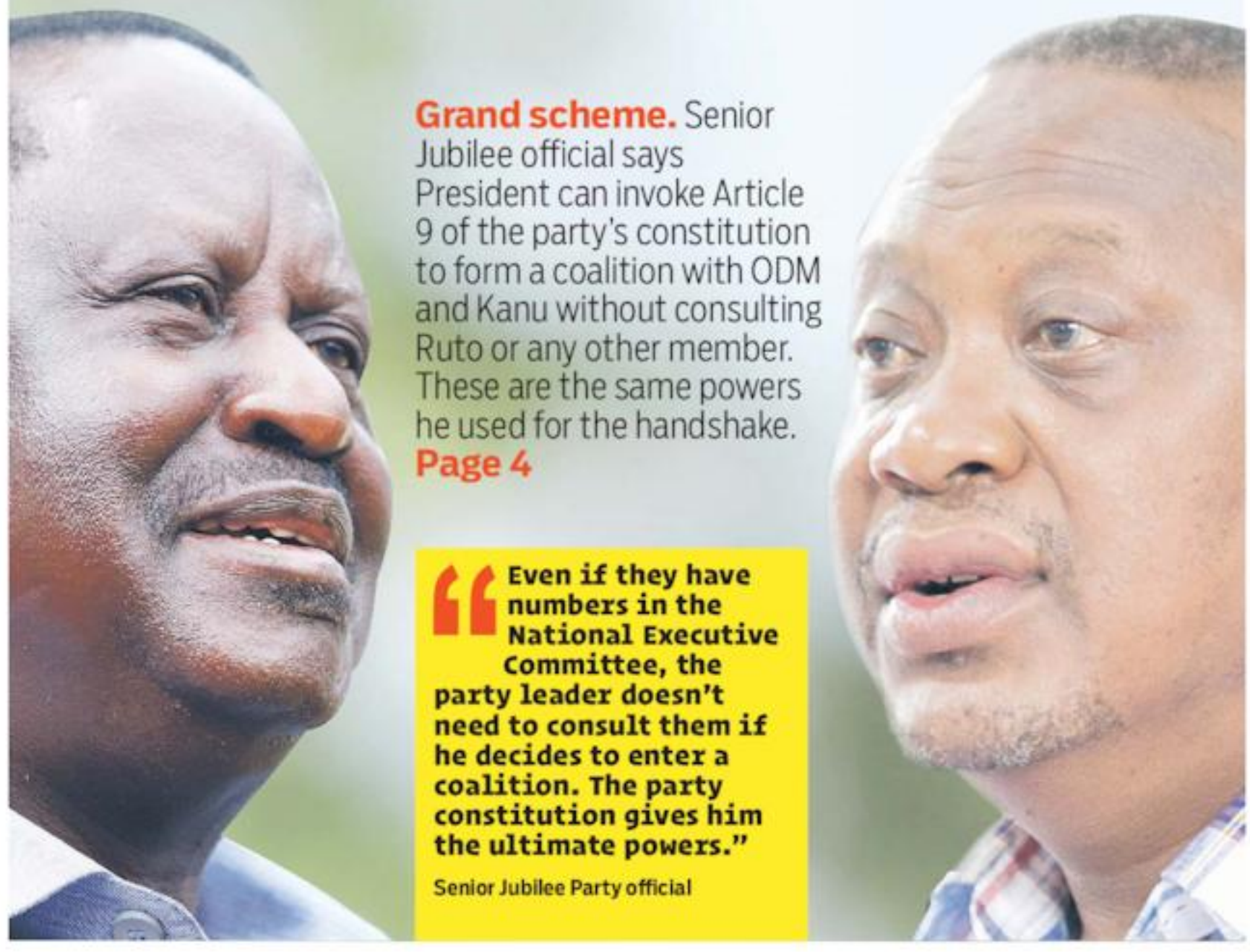


Public health. The number of employees who have tested positive for Covid-19 at the Port of Mombasa rose to 26 yesterday, amid concerns that the government took too long to stop operations at the institution. Most of the cases and related deaths reported in the county have been traced to the facility.

INSIDE TODAY



Uhuru's secret card with Raila



Grand scheme. Senior Jubilee official says President can invoke Article 9 of the party's constitution to form a coalition with ODM and Kanu without consulting Ruto or any other member. These are the same powers he used for the handshake. **Page 4**

> **"Even if they have numbers in the National Executive Committee, the party leader doesn't need to consult them if he decides to enter a coalition. The party constitution gives him the ultimate powers."**
>
> Senior Jubilee Party official

When life comes to a standstill



Grounded Kenya Airways planes at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi yesterday. The coronavirus pandemic has choked the aviation industry. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]



A submerged section of the Nakuru-Baruti Road. Rising water levels at Lake Nakuru have led to floods in various parts of the Rift Valley region. [Kipsang Joseph, Standard]



Police officers patrol Nairobi streets yesterday amid heightened enforcement of public health directives. [David Njaaga, Standard]



Limuru traders sell fresh produce outside a market that was closed in efforts to curb the spread of Covid-19. [George Njunge, Standard]



Senior citizens wait to receive their monthly stipend, in disregard of social distancing guidelines, outside at an Equity Bank branch in Kisii County. [Sammy Omingo, Standard]



The wreckage of the Liter Girls Secondary School bus that was swept by floods on Saturday. [Stephen Rutto, Standard]



Commuters wait to board a ferry at the Likoni Channel in Mombasa County yesterday. Social distancing is still a challenge at the crossing. [Kelvin Karani, Standard]



Grounded Climax buses at the Machakos bus station in Nairobi. The government banned travel into and out of Nairobi to curb the spread of Covid-19. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]

Measures. Government to extend or lift guidelines like curfew and mandatory quarantine put in place to curb spread of disease

Corona cases hit 320 as queries dog arrest of curfew offenders

Public health strategy has seen almost 1,000 people forced into government facilities for at least 14 days

By Graham Kajilwa
gkajilwa@standardmedia.co.ke

The government yesterday fell short of defending the decision to place under quarantine people who failed to observe the curfew, as Covid-19 cases rose to 320.

Health Director General Patrick Amoth and Chief Administrative Secretary Mercy Mwangangi could not justify this move, a public health strategy that has seen almost 1,000 people forced in government facilities for 14 days.

Dr Amoth defended the decision saying the individuals were assumed to have been exposed to the disease by failing to observe the 7pm to 5am curfew.

Improve the conditions

Dr Mwangangi said any decision made on quarantine was informed by World Health Organisation guidelines and global best practices that suspected cases of exposure to the virus needed to be isolated.

However, the individuals arrested are neither tested before being quarantined to determine if they have already contracted the disease nor asked about the history of their movement to find out if they could have come into contact with infected people.

As such, the government facilities, including schools and colleges, are being flooded with individuals, some who might be positive and others not.

"We are aware that the issue has generated a lot of debate. We are working to improve the conditions of the centres," said Mwangangi

The CAS insisted that the quarantine approach was a worldwide public health measure. She said some of the positive cases reported in the country had emanated from the quarantine centres.

During the update on the Covid-19 situation yesterday, the Ministry of Health reported 17 new cases. The CAS said two cases were from mandatory quarantine centres while the rest were from contact tracing.

"The fact that they were picked by the surveillance team, it means they were living in the community," she said.

The 17 cases, all Kenyans, were from 668 samples tested in the last 24 hours. Twelve are from Mombasa and five from Nairobi.

Additionally, some six patients have tested negative, bringing the total number of recoveries to 89.

"I am happy to announce that other than the two that are in Intensive Care Unit, the rest are mild cases and will hopefully be discharged in proper order of time," she said.

Amoth said some escapees from a quarantine centre in Nairobi had been traced to Kericho.

He insisted that the government had not criminalised the quarantine process but could not confirm whether the conditions were good.

"What we should do to improve the conditions, for those who are positive, we move them to isolation and those who test negative we allow them to go home and continue with self-quarantine," Amoth added.

While acknowledging that some of the measures put in place by the government, including mandatory quarantine, curfew, hand washing and wearing of masks in public places had played a role in containing the disease, Mwangangi said a meeting scheduled for Sunday would determine if they would be extended or lifted.

"We have come up with a matrix that will be evaluated this Sunday by the National Emergency Response Committee, which we will then see if they will be tightened of loosened," she said.

The Health CAS also noted that the over-reliance on sanitisers over soap and water as a measure to curb the spread of the virus was a misplaced priority.

"I am happy to announce that other than the two that are in ICU, the rest are mild cases,"

Chief Administrative Secretary Mercy Mwangangi

SITUATION IN NUMBERS total (new cases in last 24 hours)

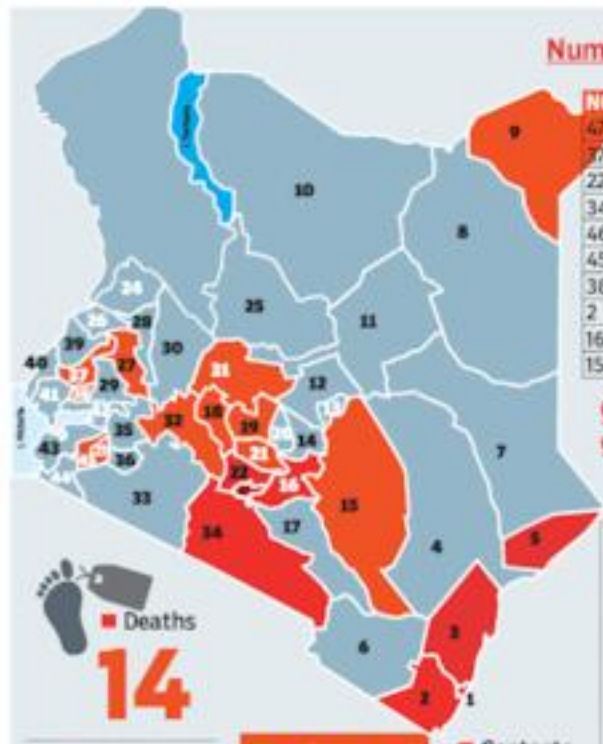
Country	Total confirmed	New cases	Deaths	New Deaths
US	852,640	+3,923	48,300	+641
Spain	213,024	+4,635	22,157	+440
UK	138,078	+4,583	18,738	+638
Belgium	42,797	+908	6,490	+228
Netherlands	35,729	+887	4,177	+123



2,672,221 Total Cases Worldwide

186,929 Total Deaths Worldwide

731,788 Recovered Worldwide



Number of patients per county

NO.	COUNTY	CASES
47	Nairobi	212
37	Kakamega	2
22	Kiambu	6
34	Kajiado	3
46	Nyamira	1
45	Kisii	1
38	Vihiga	1
2	Kwale	1
16	Machakos	6
15	Kitui	1

NO.	COUNTY	CASES
19	Nyeri	1
31	Laikipia	2
21	Murang'a	2
18	Nyandarua	2
3	Kilifi	10
32	Nakuru	5
27	Uasin Gishu	1
1	Mombasa	79
9	Mandera	8
41	Siaya	2

Countries of origin of reported cases

United States of America
Democratic Republic of Congo
Nigeria
United Kingdom
United Arab Emirates
Tanzania
South Africa
Pakistan
Uganda
Comoros
Cameroon

320 Total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases

Deaths **14**

Individuals in quarantine **455**

2,851 Contacts traced so far

Contacts discharged **2,121**

Ages of confirmed cases: Six months to 84

Recoveries: 89

Total number of samples tested **15,792**

Total targeted for mass testing by June 250,000
Number of testing kits available 25,000
Samples tested in the last 24 hours 668
Number of testing centres 10
Number of isolation centres 33
Number of hospitals targeted for surveillance 20
Number of households targeted for surveillance 100,000

Homecoming

Finally, a glimmer of hope for Kenyans stranded abroad over travel ban

Hundreds of Kenyans stranded abroad due to Covid-19 travel ban have registered with embassies to help them return home.

The Kenyan citizens, who had travelled for business, work, medical issues and studies, are only banking on Kenyan offices in the countries where they are stranded to facilitate their travel.

For instance, a Kenya Airways flight carrying UK citizens is set to leave Jomo Kenyatta International Airport today at 9.30am for Heathrow airport in London and is expected back on Saturday with some of the Kenyans who will go for a mandatory quarantine for 14 to 28 days at their expense.

Passengers who had booked to travel back to London and had not undergone the Covid-19 test at Lancet by 10am yesterday will not be allowed to board the flight.

This is because the airline had notified passengers to go for the test within 72 hours after receiving air tickets. They are expected to present a copy of medical results at the check-in counter, showing they do not have Covid-19.

Aviation guidelines

"Kenya Airways is adhering to Ministry of Health and Kenya Civil Aviation Authority guidelines, which specifies kitting of all crew in protective garb and PPE, sanitising of the aircraft interior prior to and after flight. In addition, passengers on the flight will have medical certification allowing them to fly," said the airline's Director Corporate Communications and Public Affairs, Dennis Kashero.

Mr Kashero added that being a passenger flight, there was no requirement to have medics on board, adding that the airline's priority remains the safety and security of its customers, crew and staff.

However, sources within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health told *The Standard* yesterday that as at 4pm, the airline had not received clearance to fly to London.

In China, Ambassador Sarah Serem said the embassy in Beijing had received 164 requests from Kenyans ready to meet the cost of travel from the foreign land.

Ms Serem said the embassy would issue emergency travel documents to those with missing passports and liaise with the host country to get some form of amnesty in cases of minor criminal offences.

In Turkey, Kenyans whose visas have expired are expected to contact the embassy's consular section. **[Everlyne Kwamboka]**

Pandemic

Sh18b boost for virus battle

Treasury has so far disbursed Sh18 billion to be used in Coronavirus-related interventions.

Treasury CS Ukur Yatani said the money has been released to boost the health sector, dig boreholes in slums and fund cash transfers to the elderly and other vulnerable groups.

The disbursement is part of a Sh40.3 billion war-chest to be spent on addressing adverse impacts of coronavirus pandemic.

According to the CS, more money is expected to be released today with the passage of a supplementary budget.

Treasury has allocated Sh13 billion to pay pending bills to small businesses and directed the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to release tax refunds amounting to Sh10 billion. Some Sh10 billion has been released to fund a cash transfer programme for the elderly.

On Wednesday, Parliament passed a Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 paving way for employees earning a monthly salary of less than Sh24,000 to be exempted from paying Pay-As-You Earn tax on their salaries.

Other employees will enjoy a five per cent tax relief.

Containing the virus

In a meeting with the National Assembly's Budget and Appropriations Committee, Yatani said the government had made significant efforts to contain the spread of the virus

"We have in this regard provided Sh40.3 billion to mitigate against the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which comprise Sh33.4 billion under recurrent and Sh6.9 billion under development," said the CS.

Maize farmers are set to benefit from Sh10 billion that the State has allocated to the Strategic Grain Reserve to be used for replenishing national silos.

According to Yatani, the Agriculture ministry is already in touch with select county governors inquiring about the availability of food within their regions.

The government will also disburse cash to people living in slums, with reports indicating that low-income households will get a monthly stipend of Sh2,000.

Also contained in the second supplementary estimates is a Sh400 million allocation to provide food relief and non food commodities in arid and semi-arid areas.

Treasury has allocated an additional Sh200 million to the police for enforcement and Sh200 million to prisons to combat the virus behind bars. **[Dominic Omondi]**

Trouble in paradise. Interpretation of controversial party rule rattles Ruto allies who see it as a scheme to sidestep their man

Uhuru secret card to form coalition with ODM, Kanu

Article 9 of the Jubilee constitution grants the party leader ultimate powers to run outfit and seek new alliances

By Moses Nyamori
mnyamori@standardmedia.co.ke



Jubilee National Advisory Council chair Albert Nyaundi



Nandi Hills MP Alfred Keter



Jubilee Deputy Secretary General Caleb Kositany



Kimilili MP Didmus Barasa

A clause in the Jubilee Party constitution suggesting President Uhuru Kenyatta has powers to enter into a coalition unilaterally has ignited a fresh storm.

Rival camps have bitterly clashed over the interpretation of the provision, largely viewed as the president's trump card in case he wants Jubilee to partner with Raila Odinga's ODM.

Mr Kenyatta's allies say the clause essentially allows the party leader to sidestep the hostile wing of the outfit that is allied to Deputy President William Ruto if he opts to enter a pact with other parties.

The interpretation of the party constitution by Uhuru allies – who have openly discussed a possible coalition with ODM and Baringo Senator Gideon Moi's Kanu – has rattled the DP's allies, who say it can be exploited to block Dr Ruto from running for president on Jubilee ticket in 2022.

New twist

And in a new twist, parties that merged to form Jubilee in the run-up to 2017 poll, said the Memorandum of Understanding that they deposited with the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties handed Uhuru ultimate authority in the running of the party.

Yesterday, the Jubilee National Advisory Council (NAC) – made up of two representatives from each of the 12 merged parties – through its chair Albert Nyaundi (Ford People) and Secretary General Hassan Osman (UDF), said the president was at liberty to enter any coalition in preparation for the elections.

Article 9 of the Jubilee constitution states that the party leader has ultimate powers over the running of the party and can choose to enter political co-operation with another party or coalition.

"The party leader shall promote political consultation, engagement and co-operation with other political parties and coalitions," reads Article 9(8).

Section 5 states that the party boss "shall have overall authority over the other officials and members of the party". The disclosure comes barely a day after one of Ruto's allies claimed there was a ploy by Uhuru's wing to enter a coalition agreement with ODM and Kanu.

"We are aware that they want to steal the party and form a coalition with ODM and Kanu without our approval. That is why they want to pick people who sing their tunes to powerful positions," claimed Aldai MP Cornelly Serem.

Nyeri Town MP Ngunjiri Wambugu, his Nandi Hills counterpart Alfred Keter and former Nominated Senator Paul Njoroge said the same way Uhuru entered the handshake with Mr Odinga without consulting any party member is the same way he could initiate a coalition agreement if he wanted to.

Uhuru and Raila struck a truce after the disputed 2017 presidential election without consulting their political parties and only informed them of a deal after making a surprise joint press conference on the steps of Harambee House.

"When he entered the handshake with Raila, he didn't consult anybody. It is the same way he can enter a coalition. The party leader has the ultimate authority, but he would always want to carry the people with him. It is on that basis that he would inform them," said Mr Wambugu.

He said there was no way they would allow a rival camp to take control of the party to use as a vehicle for Ruto's presidential bid. "Whatever is happening in the party is an attempt by the Tangatanga wing to take control of the party for their 2022 plans. It is like allowing one aspirant to take charge of a political party; it can't happen," said Wambugu. Keter told the Ruto camp to understand the powers of the party leader before getting into political shadowboxing.

> **"The party leader shall promote political consultation, engagement and co-operation with other political parties and coalitions."**
>
> Article 9 of the Jubilee Party constitution

"They should read the party constitution and understand the powers of the party leader. If he decides to form a coalition, he doesn't require approval from anyone. It seems they don't understand the implication of that clause," Keter added.

"Even if they (Ruto team) have numbers in the National Executive Committee, the party leader doesn't need to consult them if he decides to enter a coalition. If you read that Section 8 of Article 9 of the party constitution, it does not say the party leader will have to seek approval from any party organ. The constitution gives him the ultimate powers," said a senior party official who did not wish to be named.

But Deputy Secretary General and Soy MP Caleb Kositany, and his Kimilili counterpart Didmus Barasa insisted Uhuru cannot unilaterally enter such an agreement without the endorsement of party organs.

Mr Kositany said the party cannot be run on the whims of an individual, adding that if the rival camp was keen on entering a political deal with Raila's party, its members should join the Orange party.

He maintained that entering a coalition entails rigorous processes and approvals from party organs. "Forming a coalition is a serious process. I would advise them to join ODM instead of pushing for a coalition which will have to follow the due process," said Kositany. He accused some politicians, whom he said claim to speak the mind of the president, of dragging Uhuru into political wrangles.

Drawing board

Mr Barasa said such a process would require a vote by members of the National Delegates Convention, which is the supreme organ of the party. "He can initiate such process but he would have to call NDC to endorse such a decision or reject it," he said.

"These people need to understand that the party belongs to the people, not a few individuals. If they think they can hijack the running of the party through such means, then they have to go back to the drawing board."

On Wednesday, Mr Nyaundi and Mr Osman held a meeting at a Nairobi hotel to discuss the ongoing wrangles in the ruling party. The meeting was attended by other NAC members, among them Benjamin Muema (New Ford Kenya), Said Ali (Republican Congress Party), Petkay Miriti (Unity Patriotic Party of Kenya) and Kalembe Ndile (Tip Tip).

Osman said Uhuru was handed all the powers to run the party, including picking members of the National Executive Council and the National Management Committee, during the transition period.

"If you look at Clause Five of Article 9, it is clear the party leader has the ultimate powers during this transition period. Based on the MoU that we signed, the party leader is at liberty to work with any other party. In fact, we encourage him to do so for the unity of the country," he said.

Nyaundi added that he was surprised that members of the defunct United Republican Party were acting as if they were superior to the other parties that merged to form Jubilee. "When we signed the merger agreement, we unanimously agreed the party leader will have the ultimate powers to steer the party," he said.

"In that agreement, the party leader has powers to enter a coalition. As NAC, we want to encourage him to enter into any co-operation that will ensure peace."

Mr Njoroge, who sat in the Jubilee Party merger steering committee, said it was surprising that the deputy president was fighting for the control of the party when its leader was still in charge.

"I was in the steering committee in the merger of the 12 political parties. It is clear from the constitution that the party leader has the ultimate powers," he said.

A DUA FOR YOU

May the blessings received during this holy month
grant us wisdom to overcome these difficult times.
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Giving

Uhuru's mother chips in



Former First Lady Mama Ngina Kenyatta yesterday donated food worth Sh20 million to 12 children's homes in Gatundu and Nairobi.

President Uhuru Kenyatta's sister Nyokabi Kenyatta and former Woman Representative Ann Gathecha gave the donation on behalf of the former first lady.

Nyokabi said the donation was meant to cushion vulnerable children from the shock of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The donation included 13 tonnes of soya, seven tonnes of porridge mix, 950 litres of oil, 750 kilogrammes of green grams, 2.5 tonnes of rice, 1.5 tonnes of beans and 100 bales of maize flour.

Morning Star, Mji wa Huruma and Mama Ngina Children's Home in Nairobi will also benefit from the donation.

Elsewhere, a Kiambu businessman, Kimani Rugendo, donated Sh5 million merchandise to police officers controlling 24 roadblocks in the county in the fight against Covid-19.

The donation included juice and energy drinks, water, and hand washing stations.

Thika West Sub-county police commander Beatrice Kiraguri said the donation will boost the morale of security officers involved in combating the spread of coronavirus. **[Fidelis Kabunyi]**

Mombasa

New ferry docks after 5-year wait

The long-awaited ferry *Mv Safari* is expected to dock at the Kenya Ferry Services (KFS) jetty today.

The government procured *Mv Safari* and *Mv Jambo* from Turkey in 2015 for Sh2.1 billion. *Mv Jambo* was delivered in July 2017, but the construction of *Mv Safari* was halted by a court case.

According to KFS officials, the new vessel sailed into Indian Ocean waters yesterday.

Its arrival comes amid safety concerns surrounding three ferries currently in use: *Mv Nyayo*, *Mv Kilindini* and *Mv Harambee*. **[Weldon Kipkemoi and Patrick Beja]**

Age group. Sixty six per cent of positive cases are aged between 30 and 59 years

Mombasa port hotspot for Covid-19 spread at Coast

Outcome of tests is disturbing because of how port operations at facility are intertwined with other sectors in coastal city.

By David Ochami
and Benard Sanga
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke



A Kenya Ports Authority employee undergoes coronavirus testing at the facility in Mombasa County on Monday. [Kelvin Karani, Standard]

Three weeks after the first Covid-19 infection was reported at the Mombasa port, new infections have rapidly swept through the vital installation, striking fear in the 7,000-strong workforce.

The sense of foreboding is shared across Mombasa County, which by Wednesday's count, had recorded 67 infections.

Stung by the relentless march of the virus, mass diagnostic testing coordinated by the port, county and national governments, was launched on Sunday to determine the scope and extent of viral spread.

Three testing stations have been established at the office of the Dock Workers Union at Gate 5, Operations Conference Room and Container Terminal Operations.

In the first phase, authorities seek to test 1,000 people at the rate of 60 per day. Within days of the testing launch, 23 workers have tested positive for the virus.

Medical officials

The outcome of the tests is disturbing to epidemiologists and other medical officials because of how port operations are intertwined with other sectors in Mombasa.

The infection figure is set to rise as testing is enhanced. County health workers now believe the 23 infected port workers are a major source of transmission in Mombasa.

It was also not clear whether the county health officials had traced all the people the 23 had come into contact with. "The task of tracing their contacts is momentous," said one official of the committee established at the port to battle the virus.

"By yesterday, 23 infections had been recorded at the port," said Hazel Koitaba, the Mombasa Health executive, referring to Wednesday's national count that showed the coastal county had recorded 67 infections.

Ms Koitaba further revealed that "the first case" was reported at the port on March 30, and many more have been recorded.

"Most of the transmissions at the port are happening at work among people who work closely," he said.

She indicated yesterday: "Since Sunday we have recorded 14 positive cases at the port and we expect this figure to rise as we ramp up mass testing capabilities. As long as we step up mass testing, we expect to pick more numbers."

Staff quarantine

According to Koitaba, some of the positive cases were picked from quarantine centres established specifically for port employees.

There are 65 employees in these centres. Some placed there in early March have since been freed after testing negative.

Meanwhile, an analysis of the statistics from the port shows 66 per cent of the positive cases are aged between 30 and 59, and equally spread on sex lines.

The executive was reluctant to discuss the reasons for the rapid spread of the virus at the port despite mounting criticism that authorities there were slow in putting in measures to prevent infections and responding when infections began to rise.

There is consensus among stakeholders that the port's first infections originated from foreign sailors who came into contact with port employees. But it is also evident that despite mitigation measures put in place after the fact, authorities were overwhelmed by the huge number of employees and inability to shut down key operations.

Port officials stringently deny reports that they were lax or that foreign infected foreign sailors died within the port or interacted with port workers, denials that cannot be independently confirmed.

William Ruto, the general manager and harbour master in charge of movement of ships at the port maintains that no crew of any visiting vessel calling at the Port of the Mombasa has tested positive for the virus.

Captain Ruto said all vessels arriving at the Port must declare the health status of the crew including providing health records for the vessels' ten port calls.

"Those (vessels) that originate from countries that are coronavirus hot spots are subjected to vigorous inspection and crew prohibited from leaving the ship," Ruto told *The Standard*. According to acting Kenya Ports Authority Managing Director Rashid Salim, most of the infections have been recorded in the container Terminal, Operations and Conventional Cargo departments.

The common denominator among these departments is that they have a lot of employees working in close quarters and most of their duties involve widespread exchange of documents.

Interaction

These departments interact very much with foreigners and other port users, including from Container Freight Stations.

James Onyango Oyugi, whose controversial nocturnal burial in Siaya sparked outrage two weeks ago, worked in the Conventional Cargo Department, which has recorded five infections. According to the government, Oyugi died from Covid-19 complications.

Ursula Buluma, the first reported case and death at the port, worked in the Welfare department, which is adjacent to the Conventional Cargo department.

Like Oyugi, Buluma had underlying health issues and had also gone to a funeral in Kilifi, where an infected person was present.

Because of its very utility, most port operations cannot shut down. This means that there has been a continuous flow of cargo from Uganda, overseas and other countries by sea and road.

Last Wednesday two Kenyan drivers who had transported goods from the port to Uganda tested positive. They are isolated in Makindu.

Following the rapid spread of the virus, various State departments and parastatals hosted at the port, such as the Kenya Revenue Authority and National Transport and Safety Authority, have recalled their employees and scaled down operations.

KRA is now encouraging online clearance of cargo to avoid congestion and human interaction. It has since sent employees in non-strategic departments, those with pre-existing conditions or those aged 58 or above home to stem community spread.

Meanwhile, Koitaba believes the initial infections at the port originated from outside Mombasa and that the nature of economic activity has contributed to the subsequent spread.

"Mombasa is Kenya's second city and because of the economic activity here many people come in and out," Koitaba says.

But she notes that port workers, like other citizens, must exercise personal hygiene and social distancing.

Covid-19 effects

- Following the rapid spread of the virus various state departments and parastatals hosted at the port such as the Kenya Revenue Authority, National Transport and Safety Authority have recalled their employees and scaled down operations
- KRA is now encouraging online clearance of cargo to avoid congestion and human interaction.
- KPA has since sent employees in non-strategic departments or those with preexisting conditions or those aged 58 and above home to stem community spread.

"Those (vessels) that originate from countries that are coronavirus hotspots are subjected to vigorous inspection and crew prohibited from leaving the ship."

Captain William Ruto, port manager



Leading
Healthcare Facilities
in Kenya

The Standard Newspaper will be publishing an informative feature dubbed, ***"Leading Healthcare Facilities in Kenya"***. The initiative seeks to inform the public on their responsibilities against the COVID – 19 pandemic as infected or affected persons.

The feature will also highlight on:-

- Leading healthcare facilities in the country
- County preparedness
- Emergency and Medical Insurance Covers
- Ambulance, Evacuation and Emergency Services
- Healthcare equipment suppliers

As one of the key providers, you are invited to showcase your contribution in compacting this pandemic.

To participate kindly contact

Richard on Tel: **0725 971 837** or E-mail: **rokiko@standardmedia.co.ke**

The Standard

COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF KENYA

PUBLIC NOTICE

SCAM ON SIM CARD REGISTRATION AND OWNERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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In Brief

Busia. Ojaamong fronts six for cabinet positions

■ Governor Sospeter Ojaamong is set to expand his cabinet by incorporating six more Chief Officers. Now MCAs are expected to debate the new nominees. Should the nominees be endorsed, Ojaamong will have to reshuffle his team as he seeks to improve service delivery to the people. The six that County Public Service Board has nominated are Hellen Mukanda, Roselyne Barasa, Edwin Odero, Tom Ekisa, Jonathan Abwakau and Everlyne Mbingi. Some departments like Finance, Health and Culture either have a chief officer or County Executive Committee members in acting capacity for the last two years. **[Ignatius Odanga]**

Nairobi. Atwoli praises State for reclaiming land



■ Central Organisation of Trade Unions (Cotu) Secretary General Francis Atwoli has asked government to fast-track repossessing of public property and bring the perpetrators to book. Mr Atwoli faulted investigative agencies for taking long in apprehending corrupt individuals. He commended government for repossessing 3,000 acres in Ruai, which had for years hampered efforts to expand a sewerage treatment plant. Atwoli said those responsible should have been arrested a long time ago. On Wednesday State excavators descended on the prime land associated with a prominent politician. Various police units watched the exercise. **[David Njaaga]**

Meru. Hospital gets ICU unit as pandemic nears

■ The construction of a six-bed Intensive Care Unit and three-bed High Dependency Unit section at Meru Level 5 Hospital will be complete in one month. Governor Kiraitu Murungi confirmed this and urged counties to stop competing on who was better prepared for the coronavirus. "No county was adequately prepared for a full blown pandemic," Kiraitu said. He added that counties should instead concentrate on prevention of spread of the virus, and work towards ensuring the disease does not overwhelm the country. Kiraitu also announced that he had increased the bed capacity in isolation stations to 56 (36 at county hospital and 20 at Mboroga Health Centre). Mboroga is the designated county Covid-19 centre. **[Wainaina Ndungú]**

Ownership row. Deputy President yet to speak out on the alleged grab thought to have taken place in the mid-1990s

Ally says DP owns Ruai land but won't contest eviction

Osero, his associate, says DP has legitimate title to the property in question and thus no one should lay claim to it.

By Moses Michira
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

Deputy President William Ruto will not be challenging the repossession of the Ruai sewerage land, a close ally and business partner says.

Patrick Osero, who co-owns Weston Hotel with Dr Ruto, termed the Wednesday eviction of Renton Company from the contested property as malicious.

"He will not contest the repossession. He (DP) has a legitimate title to the property in his house. How can anyone lay claim to it," Osero posed.

Osero claims he does not own any share of the property but was well aware about Ruto's ownership of the 1600-acre property through Renton Company where a private municipality was intended.

Saying he was an authority on any property owned by the DP, Osero said the land has not been collateralised to any lender as had been widely speculated.

Other documents, however, indicate that the firm may have at least sought to charge the property to Kenya Commercial Bank, currently trading as KCB, even though we could not immediately confirm whether funds were ever released.

But as it would emerge, Renton Company does not exist at the registry of companies even though there are several variants of the name. And Ruto is yet to speak out on the alleged grab, which is thought to have taken place in the mid-1990s.

Emmanuel Talam, the Director of Communication in the Deputy President's office, had on Wednesday denied Ruto's link to the property.

"As far as I know, the DP does not own that land. You can find that out from the registry and you know I do not work there," Mr Talam told *The Standard* on Wednesday when the demolition was ongoing.

2010 petition

Court documents, in a petition filed in 2010 by Renton Company against Nairobi City Council and former senior officials Philip Kisia and Tom Odongo, indicate that the firm had sought to charge the property to KCB and had also sought to be connected to the electricity grid. However, Mr Odongo – then the director of Land and Planning – cautioned KCB against extending the facility, saying the land was indeed public and intended for expansion of the sewerage treatment plant.

Mr Kisia, who served as the town clerk for Nairobi City Council for three years until 2012, questioned the legitimacy of the allocation.

"If there is anything to show that the allocation followed due process then the alleged owners should seek compensation," he said.

Kisia added that the city council did not have the powers to allocate land meant for public use, in this case intended for the expansion of the sewerage treatment plant, to private entities.

NCC was formally granted the entire parcel of land registered as LR 12979/1 in 1996 where the sewerage works was already. It was part of LR 12979 which is 5,336.2 hectares (13,186 acres), according to the area survey maps.

Four portions were carved out of the swathe of land on which the city councillors intended to settle landless dwellers.

Renton and another firm associated with former MP Cyrus Jirongo were allocated two of the parcels measuring 1,600 and 1,000 acres respectively.

Court records indicate that Renton claims to have paid Sh18.2 million to NCC, but the claim was not backed up by any documents.

Mr Jirongo was able to charge the property to Kenya Post Bank Credit, which has since collapsed, in 1994 for Sh1 billion, a fact confirmed yesterday by the Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Mohamud Ahmed, the chief executive of KIDC, said the corporation was still holding on to the title deed, which he described as having been "properly charged".

"...The title for the piece is with us duly charged," Ahmed said.

He could not immediately confirm how much Jirongo's loan has now swollen to, but it has previously been reported to have crossed Sh20 billion.

It is unclear whether Jirongo's portion of the land would also be repossessed considering the similarity in circumstances of allocation. Should it end in the same way, the KDIC would be left holding onto worthless papers.

Most details relating to the Renton land are captured in a petition filed by the late Jacob Juma challenging the ownership of the land.

Juma had moved to court jointly with ordinary squatters who had moved on to the 1,600-acre land.

In his petition, he termed the allocation as fraudulent and cited the record 55 minutes it took the formal grant of the land to NCC and the subsequent transfer to Renton.

"Prior to the transfer and registration of the suit land in favour of Renton Company Limited on April 12, 1996 at 10.25am, the land had been acquired by the government and reserved for construction of a sewer plant and expansion of sanitary facilities in the city.

Suit land

"The suit land having been reserved for public purposes under the provision of the Constitution and Government Land Act, it was not available for alienation...the grant in respect of the suit land was registered in favour of the City Council of Nairobi at 9.30am April 12, 1996 and then hurriedly transferred to the first respondent on the same day at 10.25am," read Juma's petition.

Besides the petition, a court had annulled the supposed allocation of the parcel to Renton Company.

In 2010, GG Gachihi, the registrar of titles, cancelled the allocation of the land to private developers through a gazette notice which effectively meant that even the squatters would not have a claim on the land.

Gachihi specifically pointed out LR 12979/3 granted to Jirongo and LR 12979/4 allocated to Renton as illegal and unconstitutional.

"Under the circumstances and in view of the public need and interest, the government revokes all the said titles," wrote the registrar.



An evicted officer attached to the EastPark Police Station prepares to leave the repossessed sewerage land in Ruai on Wednesday. GSU and police were deployed to maintain security as the government took over the land. [David Njaaga, Standard]

The land in question

- Grabbing of the Ruai land has hampered previous efforts to expand the sewerage treatment plant whose initial capacity was intended to last the city until 1994
- Records relating to the land that was intended for the expansion of the sewerage treatment plant show it should have reverted to government after the irregular allocation
- GG Gachihi, the Registrar of Titles, had in 2010 cancelled the allocation to private developers through a gazette notice



"He will not contest the repossession. He has a legitimate title to the property in his house. How can anyone lay claim to it?"

Patrick Osero, DP Ruto's associate

Coronavirus

Grave danger. Double body bags are used to ensure there is no leakage

Even the dead can infect the living with virus

Fluids from corpses can put the lives of those examining or handling bodies at risk, pathologist says.

By Beldeen Wallaula
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke



It is possible for one to contract coronavirus from the body of a person who has died from Covid-19, a pathologist has said.

Emily Rogena *(pictured)*, a professor in human pathology at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, says corpses can expel fluids while they are being moved or transported, putting the lives of those examining or handling the bodies at risk.

"The virus can stick to surfaces for longer hours and that's why double body bags are used to ensure there is no leakage of body fluids," Prof Rogena, who is also a private forensic pathologist, says.

This revelation comes in the wake of reports that a Thai pathologist died from coronavirus after catching it from a body in what is believed to be the first case of its kind.

Infectious samples

According to a report authored by two doctors and published in the *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*, the pathologist who worked in Bangok came into contact with a Covid-19 corpse.

Rogena says pathologists are aware when dealing with samples that are highly-infectious by wearing personal protective equipment to limit exposure. Further, with the pandemic, they have recommended that fans not be used in mortuaries.

"During this pandemic, one can only carry out an autopsy if they are sure they are well trained for a particular technique they are using, and the surrounding must support the procedure they are doing, like the negative pressure rooms," she says.

"Also, one should have enough clinical information before starting a postmortem just to rule out the chance that the person died from Covid-19 by reviewing their clinical background."

Handling bodies

- At every point of handling human remains of a Covid-19 patient, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn
- The body should be packed in double-leak proof body bags
- Disinfect the body bag and all visible surfaces with 0.5% Sodium hypochlorite (bleach)
- A public health official should be designated in advance to accompany the body from the hospital to the place of final disposition to ensure the safety of all those involved in the process
- Government guidance on the conduct of funerals which includes minimising the number of attendants to not more than 15 and ensuring social distancing

Rogena further advises her colleagues not perform postmortems in instances where a hospital physician has certified the patient died from the coronavirus disease.

Local pathologists have come together under the Kenya Association of Clinical Pathologists (KACP) to support the developments of systems for dealing with those who die from Covid-19.

The disease is classified as a group 3 (HG3) disease, like hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis and Sars, as its agents can easily spread in the community.

Rogena says if a pathologist is carrying out a procedure and finds an infection in the lungs, they should stop immediately and disinfect the body to avoid the spread of the infection.

"Covid-19 is viremic and can be detected in blood, so any body fluid is potentially infective and that's why we use a packaging system that is leak-proof.

"Covid-19 is a respiratory pathogen and can be transmitted via respiratory droplets, but also through the blood of a viremic patient."

She adds that after the pandemic, Kenyan culture, when it comes to handling the dead and burials, might change as people adapt to new ways.

"Culture is determined by society and the community. Culture is not static, it has to change at some point and keep evolving in a positive way. People may see the good in faster disposal of bodies," she notes.

Rogena also asks the public not to stigmatise families whose kin die from the virus by making them feel like they are the cause or that they may also die.

"Health workers conducting the burials should ensure they follow stipulated burial policies so as to maintain the dignity of the dead. When disposing the dead, environmental safety should be observed. After the autopsy, the body should be packaged in a way that is safe for the environment and the grave should be a standard six feet deep to limit exposure," she adds.

Family involvement

Rogena says body viewing is limited to identification, with the next of kin supported to identify the body prior to the closure of the body bag.

"Grief is one of the stages families go through and they need counselling. This is where healthcare workers need to come in by giving the right information since burial is within 48 hours."

And as the number of those who become infected, sick and die from coronavirus increases, Rogena says pathologists will continue to follow their mandate to investigate and determine the cause and manner of death.

BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO
KENYA

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

POSTPONEMENT OF THE 68TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ADVANCE PAYMENT OF PROPOSED FINAL DIVIDEND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 68th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of British American Tobacco Kenya plc (BAT Kenya) scheduled to take place on 29th April 2020, has been postponed.

The decision is based on the evolving public health threat posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic and consequent guidance issued by the Capital Markets Authority, as well as our intention to ensure the safety of the Company's staff, shareholders and other stakeholders who would be involved in the AGM. The Board will continue to monitor the situation and announce the new AGM date in due course.

Advance payment of proposed Final Dividend
As announced in the local Dailies on 20th February 2020, the Board of Directors has proposed a Final Dividend of KSh. 30.00 per ordinary share, in respect of the year ended 31st December 2019, to be recommended for approval by shareholders at the AGM. The Final Dividend, when added to the Interim Dividend of KSh. 3.50 already paid, gives a total dividend of KSh. 33.50 per ordinary share.

However, owing to the uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic, postponement of the AGM and the need to facilitate shareholder access to their funds, the Board has authorised the advance payment of the proposed Final Dividend. The payment is made in compliance with the Company's internal governance procedures, dividend policy, and the law; and is consistent with the recent guidance from the CMA on how to manage dividend payments in the current circumstances .

The proposed Final Dividend will be paid on 29th April 2020, net of with-holding tax, to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 20th March 2020. The proposed Final Dividend will be presented to shareholders for ratification at the Annual General Meeting when held.

Appointment of External Auditor
In compliance with Section 721 of the Companies Act, 2015 and bearing in mind recent guidance from the CMA on progressing appointment of the External Auditor owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors will proceed to appoint Messrs KPMG Kenya as External Auditor of the Company for year 2020 and fix their remuneration. The appointment will also be presented to shareholders for ratification at the Annual General Meeting when held.

By order of the Board

Waeni Ngea (Ms.)
Company Secretary

23rd April 2020

DISCLAIMER:
This announcement has been issued with the approval of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA). The CMA however assumes no responsibility for the correctness of statements appearing in this announcement.

Breakthrough

Kenyans stuck in China to fly home on May 1

Hundreds of Kenyans stranded in China will finally fly home on May 1, as the Kenyan Embassy in the country has communicated the date when a flight will be available.

Those who wish to travel back home will pay $750 (Sh80,000) for the economy class ticket from Guangzhou to Nairobi.

The Kenyan Embassy in China yesterday said the airfare had been discounted and maintained that the government would only facilitate those who can afford the ticket.

"Cost of ticket will be borne by an individual who will personally book and pay for it on the platform provided by Kenya Airways," the embassy said in a communique to the Kenyans in China.

The new communication comes amid heightened criticism on how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has handled the predicament of the Kenyans stuck in China, many of them students and business people, who have been unable to return home for lack of means. The Chinese government has grounded all planes to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Some of the Kenyans have reported mistreatment in the Asian country, specifically Guangzhou. Videos of Africans being evicted from their houses in the city have been shared on social media.

Sarah Serem, Kenya's envoy to China, defending the embassy from accusations it had abandoned the Kenyans, said the embassy had helped everyone that was affected.

She said she had arranged alternative accommodation for the evicted Kenyans.

In its notice yesterday, Ms Serem's office emphasised that it was not evacuating anyone, but merely facilitating their travel.

They will also require a Covid-19 clearance certificate. **[Allan Mungai]**

Education. Sossion believes there shall be adequate time to prepare students for national examinations post coronavirus

Principals ultimatum if schools are to open



"This means we may start national examinations towards end of November and complete it before Christmas time. Marking could even be done next year as was the practice before the reforms."

Secondary School Heads Association chairman, Kahi Indimuli



"Beyond June, a whole term will have been lost and it would never be the same. With more than 11 weeks gone, we may not have an express learning with examinations in mind. A time will come when it is impossible."

Kuppet Secretary General, Akello Misori



"Parents fear for safety of their children, whether candidates or in lower classes. Students come from diverse counties, some with many cases registered. This will affect learning if measures are not put in place."

National chairman of parents association, Nicholas Maiyo

National examinations could be delayed by another three weeks to fully recover the four weeks lost in term one.

By Augustine Oduor
aoduor@standardmedia.co.ke

It is now emerging that the government may only have up to the end of June to recall candidates to school to cover the syllabus and have equal chance to sit the national examinations.

Interviews with teachers and education experts reveal that anything beyond June will force the government to make serious adjustments, which may disadvantage some candidates.

With three weeks already lost during first term, teachers said another delay beyond June will pose a huge challenge in covering the syllabus and preparing children for examinations. Secondary school heads said by the end of June, some 11 weeks will have been lost, arguing that any additional week would not be easily recovered.

Kenya Secondary School Heads Association (Kessha) national chairman Kahi Indimuli said schools can adjust to covering the syllabus and prepare the candidates.

"We can reduce the August holiday to recover the first three weeks lost in first term and seek ways of getting back the four weeks lost in May," said Indimuli.

According to the 2020 school calendar, second term was scheduled to start on May 4 and to last 14 weeks with the closing date set for August 7.

The one-week half-term scheduled for June 15-19 would be used to recover some of the lost time. Third term was to start on August 31 and end on October 30 to pave way for the national examinations. Knec examination timetable shows KCPE was to start on October 27 and KCSE on November 2.

Time lost

Indimuli said the national examinations could be delayed by another three weeks so as to fully recover the four weeks lost in June.

"This means we may start national examinations towards end of November and complete it before Christmas time. Marking could even be done next year as was the practice long before the reforms," said Indimuli.

Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (Kuppet) Secretary General Akello Misori cautioned that beyond June, a whole term will have been lost and it would never be the same.

According to this year's school calendar, first and second terms were to last 14 weeks. Third term for primary schools was to last nine weeks and 10 weeks for secondary schools.

"With more than 11 weeks gone, we may not have an express learning with examinations in mind. A time will come when it is impossible," said Misori.

Knut Secretary General Wilson Sossion, however, believes there shall be adequate time to prepare students for national examinations post coronavirus.

"The syllabus is as good as done in most schools; what is remaining is revision and preparing students for the examinations," said Sossion.

Parents, however, said they will not release their children to schools unless the coronavirus curve is flattened.

"Parents' fear remains the safety of their children, whether candidates or in lower classes. This will all depend on the coronavirus curve," said Nicholas Maiyo, the national chairman of parents.

He further said that before children go back to schools, they must be screened and those infected isolated.

"They all come from diverse counties some with many cases registered and this will affect learning if proper measures are not taken into consideration," said Maiyo.

Kenya Primary School Heads Association (Kepsha) national chairman Nicholas Gathemia, however, said teachers will be ready to teach as long as their safety and those of children are guaranteed.

"As long as we are assured that children and teachers will be safe, we shall support the government initiative," said Gathemia.

In an interview with *The Standard*, Indimuli said with the proposed adjustments, it would be practical to retain the January to September school calendar.

Adjust calendar

"There must be exit and transition period for learners in an education system. If this does not happen then it means that the education calendar may be adjusted to start in September and end September next year to coincide with universities admissions time," said Indimuli.

However, he said, this may pose serious challenges because students may be forced to sit in same class for another year.

"This will come with a lot of stress among the learners. The other question will be what happens to Grade 4 pupils in Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). Will they repeat or will they be moved to the 8-4-4 system," said Indimuli.

Secondary school heads said if Kenyans comply with health directives on management of Covid-19 and candidates are sent to school before end of June, teachers would do their best to cope.

Indimuli advised that before schools open, the Ministry of Health must fumigate all the institutions and shelve plans to use them as isolation centres.

"They should also provide face masks and sanitisers for use in schools by the candidates, teachers and the lean support staff," said Indimuli.

Human-wildlife conflict

KWS clashes with community after poisoning of 18 birds and jackal

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has protested the poisoning of rare birds by the pastoralist community in Rumuruti, Laikipia County.

KWS said the 18 birds died after eating poisoned camel carcass preyed upon by a lion.

The agency explained that the carcasses of the two camels were poisoned and released to the wild as a retaliation for lions preying on livestock.

"The owner of two camels that were preyed upon by a lion has been held over the incident. Two camels that had been missing from a boma for four days were killed by a lion whose foot marks were identified in the vicinity," read a post on KWS Facebook page.

In a statement issued by Laikipia Farmers Association (LFA), the community said they resorted to poisoning wildlife due to high cases of killing of livestock by predators, with no intervention or compensation from KWS.

"This community has suffered enormously from predation over the last few months, now totalling 10 cows, four camels and a sheep. Living in Laikipia, for both farmers and pastoralists, comes with many challenges, mostly due to human-wildlife conflict," said LFA communications officer Camilla McConnell.

Ms McConnell said in retaliation to killings of livestock, the community often resorted to wildlife poisoning.

"A carcass will be contaminated with whatever chemical easily available, usually some form of pesticide. It is then left for the lions to eat and die. Scavengers like jackals, hyenas, vultures, eagles, storks following the predators also become victims of poisoning," she said.

"A poisoned carcass can remain toxic for at least a week depending on the weather and dosage. This means it can continue to cause more casualties than intended," she said.

As organisations and conservancies strive to find workable solutions to human-wildlife coexistence, LFA stated that particular animals were dangerous and posed risks to the community.

"If the habits go unchecked for too long, the animals will attack livestock and people, leading to disastrous injury," she added.

McConnell further said the disastrous repercussions of poisoning predators had led to a steep decline in vulture populations over the last decade, to the point they are now considered critically endangered.

KWS noted that the latest case claimed 11 rufous vultures, seven tawny eagles and one silver jackal, all endangered species.

"Samples from the vultures are with the Government Chemist for analysis, while the carcasses have been disposed of to prevent potential spread of disease. KWS is working with the local administration and Directorate of Criminal Investigations to determine the source of the poison," read the statement. **[Jacinta Mutura]**

COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF KENYA

PUBLIC NOTICE

SCAM ON SIM CARD REGISTRATION AND OWNERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Leading
Healthcare Facilities in Kenya

The Standard Newspaper will be publishing an informative feature dubbed, ***"Leading Healthcare Facilities in Kenya"***. The initiative seeks to inform the public on their responsibilities against the COVID – 19 pandemic as infected or affected persons.

The feature will also highlight on:-

- Leading healthcare facilities in the country
- County preparedness
- Emergency and Medical Insurance Covers
- Ambulance, Evacuation and Emergency Services
- Healthcare equipment suppliers

As one of the key providers, you are invited to showcase your contribution in compacting this pandemic.

To participate kindly contact

Richard on Tel: **0725 971 837** or E-mail: **rokiko@standardmedia.co.ke**

The Standard

FIRST ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

COMPANY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS Kshs'000	LONG TERM INSURANCE BUSINESS Kshs'000	TOTAL 2019 Kshs'000	TOTAL 2018 Kshs'000
INCOME				
Gross Written Premium	3,672,369	93,236	3,765,605	3,888,998
Gross Earned Premium	3,705,722	93,236	3,798,958	3,751,776
Outward Reinsurance Premium	(1,487,948)	(83,247)	(1,571,195)	(1,695,979)
Net Earned Premium	2,217,774	9,989	2,227,763	2,055,797
Investment Income	187,208	15,951	203,159	283,961
Commissions Earned	324,394	20,812	345,206	338,896
Total Income	2,729,376	46,752	2,776,128	2,658,654
OUTGO				
Claims & Policyholders benefits	2,210,742	152,455	2,363,197	2,787,635
Less: Reinsurers' share of claims	(928,609)	(138,694)	(1,067,303)	(1,266,352)
Net claims and policy holders benefits	1,282,133	13,761	1,295,894	1,521,283
Commission Payable	448,270	7,385	455,655	476,024
Operating & other expenses	829,286	8,433	837,719	924,153
Total outgo	2,559,689	29,579	2,589,268	2,921,460
Profit/(Loss) before tax	169,687	17,173	186,860	(262,806)
Income Tax (Expense)/ Credit	(60,044)	(5,702)	(65,746)	87,216
Profit/(Loss) for the year after Tax	109,643	11,471	121,114	(175,590)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Fair value gain on property & equipment, Net of Tax	3,248	-	3,248	7,700
Other comprehensive income net of Tax	17,477	-	17,477	(34,913)
Total other comprehensive income for the period	20,725	-	20,725	(27,213)
Total Profit/(Loss) & other comprehensive income	130,368	11,471	141,839	(202,803)

COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019 Kshs'000	Restated 2018 Kshs'000
EQUITY AND RESERVES		
Share Capital	810,000	810,000
Revaluation Surplus	260,113	256,865
Share premium	512,138	512,138
Statutory Reserve	-	182,486
Retained Earnings	91,129	114,009
TOTAL EQUITY AND RESERVES	1,873,380	1,875,498
ASSETS		
Property & Equipment	471,200	475,848
Intangible Assets	64,502	68,629
Investment Property	1,450,000	1,450,000
Right of Use Asset	22,327	-
Deferred tax asset	118,600	187,527
Retirement Benefit Asset	21,914	1,493
Deferred acquisition costs	157,663	188,510
Kenya Motor Insurance Pool	36,576	33,492
Tax recoverable	63,333	63,333
Receivables arising out of direct insurance arrangements	461,086	472,161
Receivables arising out of reinsurance arrangements	199,573	232,321
Reinsurers share of insurance contract liabilities	1,188,374	1,679,154
Other Receivables	96,511	64,997
Corporate Bonds	20,795	29,467
Government Securities	1,141,673	1,546,988
Deposits in financial institutions	447,393	352,111
Cash & Bank Balances	123,279	156,455
TOTAL ASSETS	6,094,799	7,002,496
LIABILITIES		
Insurance Contract Liabilities	1,984,207	2,458,601
Provision for Unearned Premium	1,302,475	1,473,452
Additional Unexpired risk reserve	36,127	89,253
Payables arising from reinsurance arrangements	277,738	467,857
Due to related parties	564,381	268,010
Other Payables	222,905	273,941
Lease liability	24,166	-
Deferred tax liability	-	93,931
Tax Payable	-	1,953
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,421,409	5,126,998
NET ASSETS	1,873,380	1,875,498
KEY RATIOS	2019	2018
Capital adequacy ratio	128%	117%
Claims ratio	58%	74%
Expense ratio	38%	45%

The above statement of financial position and statement of comprehensive income are extracts from the Company's financial statements which were audited by Ernst & Young LLP and received an unqualified opinion.
The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 10 March 2020 and signed on its behalf by:-

Mary Ngige	**Laila Macharia**	**Fred Ruoro**
Chairperson	Director	Managing Director

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Garissa

Medics on strike over March pay

Operations at Garissa referral hospital were paralysed yesterday after healthcare workers downed tools over last month's pay.

The workers, who converged at the county's biggest hospital, vowed not to resume work until their demands are met, saying they gave authorities enough time to solve the issues.

The healthcare workers striking included doctors, nurses, paediatricians, pharmacists, nutritionists, lab technologists, dentists, nurses and clinicians.

Subordinate staff in the hospital also downed their tools.

The region's acting Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union spokesman Hassan Abdi Mohamed said over the last three years their salaries had always delayed. "You can imagine it is April 23, yet healthcare workers have not been paid March salaries. We won't resume duty until salaries are paid," he said.

He added that leave allowances for the workers had not been paid and some of them had not been promoted for five years.

"The county government has not been remitting statutory fees, including NHIF, NSSF and union subscriptions," said Dr Abdi.

The strike comes at a time the country is battling coronavirus, a global pandemic that has claimed thousands of lives, including healthcare workers in the front line.

The union officials feared the county administration was ill prepared in case a patient tested positive for Covid-19, saying Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) were not available.

"It will be very difficult for us to fight Covid-19 in case of an outbreak because there are only 15 beds, inadequate PPEs and no single ventilator," Abdi said.

Yesterday patients were turned away from the medical facility on arrival while those admitted were taken back by relatives.

The newborn baby unit was at high risk, as no one was around to give care. **[Abdimalik Hajir]**

Agriculture. Major reforms in the pipeline

CS Munya cracks the whip on brokers in new tea sale rules

In a bold attempt to end Kenya's dubious distinction as top exporter of cheap bulk tea, value addition for 40 per cent of auctioned tea must be done locally.



Farmers take tea leaves to Gianchere centre in Kisii County. Area farmers have accused factory managements of not collecting the leaves on time. Some say they stay at tea buying centres overnight waiting for clerks and lorries to weigh and ferry the leaves. [Sammy Omingo, Standard]

By Wainaina Ndungú
wndungu@standardmedia.co.ke

Tea buyers at the Mombasa tea auction will be expected to carry out value addition locally before shipping, if a set of rules awaiting public participation sails through.

In a move expected to improve prices and create thousands of jobs, the rules proposed for the tea sector demand that buyers locally add value to at least 40 per cent of all tea bought at the Mombasa auction.

The regulations are expected to end bulk exports of Kenyan tea, which is then blended and packaged overseas, making it more lucrative.

The Tea Industry Regulations (2020) currently at the public participation stage, give current buyers and exporters at the Mombasa tea auction a two-year window to comply or lose their licences.

"All persons registered as tea buyers/exporters shall submit to the authority a return on quarterly basis indicating their level of compliance with provisions of this regulation," states the proposed law.

Table business plan

The buyers will also be required to present to the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) an elaborate business plan on how they intend to undertake value addition, create new market linkages as well as employment and technology transfer to local communities. Almost 90 per cent of tea produced in Kenya is exported in bulk, after which it is blended and packaged, in the process multiplying in value. The tradition has robbed local producers better prices and exported packaging jobs abroad.

All local tea packers must be registered and file monthly returns to AFA copied to their county governments.

Tea brokers, who have traditionally been self-regulating under the East African Tea Trade Association (EATTA) that runs the Mombasa Tea Auction will also be on the AFA radar.

The authority will have powers to lock out any person or firm found to have taken part in any business practice in the tea value chain that is deemed fraudulent, prejudicial, and improper or which discredits their method of doing business.

Also to be barred from tea brokerage business are directors of a company or entity whose licence or registration certificate has previously been revoked or suspended by AFA for any reason.

Additionally, every buyer, exporter, importer and broker shall file monthly returns on tea bought in the preceding month and the source and destination of the same.

The regulations also give timelines for newly registered players in the tea sector. "A person who applies to be registered as a tea buyer, exporter, importer, broker, packer or auction organiser shall commence operations within one year from the date of issuance of a registration certificate," proposes the regulations.

The tea brokers association will be expected to seek a license to be an auction organiser in a provision that allows other operators to establish similar platforms.

All registered auction organisers will be required to establish an electronic trading platform.

And tea farmers in Murang'a are seeking reduction of management agency fee from 2.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Supporting proposed reforms in the sector, the farmers' spokespersons Wambugu Gachunji and Njeri Waithaka said the current management agency fee was exploitative. They asked that an agent be limited to a maximum 15 tea factories.

They also recommended a reduction in the number of directors in each factory, saying current numbers were too high. **[Additional reporting by Boniface Gikandi]**

Proposed rules

- Buyers to carry out value addition locally on at least 40 per cent of all tea bought
- Buyers to present business plans to the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA)
- All local tea packers to be registered and to file monthly returns to AFA
- Directors or entities whose licences or registration have previously been revoked or suspended barred from tea auction
- Tea auctions to be conducted electronically
- East African Tea Trade Association to seek a tea auctioning license

In Brief

Mombasa. Two thugs killed in shootout

■ Two suspected gangsters were gunned down by police in a dramatic shootout at Nyali bridge in Mombasa. According to a police source, the suspects had robbed a wholesale shop in Makupa and escaped using a motorcycle. Nyali Sub-county Police Commander Daniel Mumasaba said the officers who were on patrol on Wednesday evening enforcing the ongoing curfew heard commotion and responded. Details of the gunmen and their motorcycle were shared and a chase was activated. The suspects were gunned down when they refused to surrender. "We alerted our officers manning the Nyali bridge roadblock while other officers from Makupa chased after the thugs. They managed to catch up with the suspects who defied orders to surrender," said Mumasaba. One of the thugs threw his gun into the ocean. **[Weldon Kipkemoi]**

Nakuru. Three beaches closed to the public

■ The government has directed that three of the four beaches around Lake Naivasha be closed after they were submerged following the ongoing heavy rains. Residents of Kihoto village, which borders the lake, have also been ordered to shift to higher ground following the sharp rise in water levels. The move comes a couple of days after rivers Karati and Malewa, which empty their waters into the lake, burst their banks following the rains. Naivasha Sub-county Commissioner Mathioya Mbogo identified the affected beaches as Karagita, Central and Kamere, adding that nearly all structures on them were submerged and posed a health hazard. While issuing the directive, Mr Mbogo noted that the facilities were a major health threat not only to fishermen but also to their customers, and asked traders to shift to safer beaches. "We have agreed with them (fishermen) that they will not operate from the facilities in their current state and they have started moving out," he said. Mbogo further added that the county has banned the transportation of fish using personal cars and public service vehicles to curb the spread of Covid-19. **[Antony Gitonga]**



Siaya. Medic sent on leave over incitement

■ A senior health officer has been sent on compulsory leave for allegedly inciting fellow health workers and jeorpadising the war against Covid-19. Peter Omoth, the Bondo Sub County Medical Officer of Health, is facing several accusations including an alleged lack of commitment in the fight against Covid-19. In a letter dated April 17, 2020 and copied to Governor Cornel Rasanga, Omoth is also accused of promoting stigma among front-line health workers. **[Olivia Odhiambo]**

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Service of Court and Tax Appeals Tribunal Documents

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) informs members of the public that service of Court and Tax Appeal Tribunal documents shall now be done through the following email address:

LegalServices@kra.go.ke

For clarification please contact the Legal Office on
Tel. Number: +254 709 011 688

Commissioner for Legal Services & Board Coordination

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Public Notice

Service of Documents in Support of Objections to VAT Automated Audit (VAA) Assessment

The Kenya Revenue Authority informs all our esteemed customers that all documents in support of objections to VAT Automated Audit (VAA) Assessments for VAT Returns for the period January 2018 to May 2018 should be scanned and sent to the following e-mail address:

VAAlegalservices@kra.go.ke

For clarification please contact the Legal Office on
Tel. Number: +254 709 011 688

Commissioner for Legal Services & Board Coordination

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Editorial

From Sonko to Badi, Nairobi needs more work and less petty dramas

Nairobians should not be saddled with litigation that adds no value to their lives

In a ridiculous twist of events, Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko wants to reverse the recent transfer of four key functions to the national government.

Completely out of the blue in February this year, the Nairobi County government transferred health, transport services, public works, and planning and development functions to the national government following mutual agreement.

In highly publicised protocol, Sonko was seen signing the deed of transfer on behalf of the county government, while Cabinet Secretary for Devolution Eugene Wamalwa signed on behalf of the national government. President Uhuru Kenyatta was a witness to that ceremony.

Slightly over a month after the transfer, Sonko appears to have changed his mind. However, it is a little too late in the day for him to renege on a deal he willingly signed, for several reasons.

From the outset, there was a general feeling that the transfer had not followed the right procedure. Ideally, it should have accommodated the input of all stakeholders.

First, the transfer was not deliberated upon in the county assembly to give it legitimacy through the endorsement of a majority of MCAs, and second, it was not subjected to public participation. Had that been observed, the excuses Sonko now advances that he did not read the deed of transfer would not have arisen. If anything, the admission that he did not read the deed vindicates those who have held the view that Sonko was not cut out for the job of running a complex metropolis like Nairobi, which also holds the seat of power of the national government.

Since Sonko has hardly demonstrated that he is up to the task, the needs of Nairobians now deserve to be properly seen to by the apolitical Nairobi Metropolitan Services under Maj Gen Mohamed Badi, in accordance with the agreement that the city's governor signed.

There should be no turning back, and the agreement should be allowed to run its full course as a done deal. Nairobians should not be saddled with litigation that adds no value to their lives.

Yet, to dismiss Sonko's claim that some people are trying to frustrate him would be injudicious. For instance, the proposal by MPs that the 2020-2021 budget allocation for Nairobi be held in the Consolidated Fund is mischievous. The deed of transfer did not mean Nairobi County should be starved of funds.



KWS should stop ignoring farmers' desperate cries

They have on numerous occasions asked the agency to relocate or rein in the animal

Human-wildlife conflict is as old as our country. Whenever communities are under siege from wild animals, they seek help from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

However, a community that has persistently been pleading with the agency to intervene in their conflict with just one elephant is now convinced that KWS exists only on paper.

The residents of Jogoo Farm in Nakuru, who neighbour Koibatek Forest in Baringo County, have been spending sleepless nights since mid last year, thanks to the lone elephant that comes from the forest.

They have on numerous occasions asked the agency to relocate or rein in the animal, which destroys their crops, fences and other structures on a nightly basis, but one year down the line, the elephant is still wreaking havoc.

Twice this year – in January and last week – *The Standard* has highlighted the plight of the farmers, but even that was not enough to jolt KWS into action.

This begs the questions: does KWS care about communities that are put through unspeakable suffering by wildlife? If it does, why has it not acted in this matter? If it cannot restrain one elephant, what happens in places like Laikipia where herds of elephants are known to invade villages?

KWS officials need to take the work they are paid to do more seriously. It's totally unacceptable for residents to complain for a whole year without any meaningful action being taken. It shows that some people are either sleeping on the job or don't care when 'small' people are terrorised by wildlife.

Enforcement of Covid-19 laws must be reasonable

Demas Kiprono



Social media has been abuzz with Kenyans complaining of State heavy-handedness while enforcing regulations designed to curb Covid-19, such as the requirement to wear face masks while in public, the national curfew and certain travel restrictions.

Kenyans have complained of being arrested even before the curfew, while others claim to have been caught up because of medical emergencies or unfortunate events, such as vehicle breakdowns. Some essential service providers like medics have been harassed and beaten during curfew hours despite being exempt; others have complained of wrongful arrest, assault, extortion and quarantine.

On the other hand, there have several instances where Kenyans have been caught flouting social distancing and curfew rules by throwing parties and religious ceremonies. These actions paint a bleak picture regarding whether Kenyans have internalised the existential threat that the coronavirus poses.

Legitimate aim

As a result of the arrogance and carelessness displayed by some, the government recently announced that those found outside of their houses during the curfew period would be assumed to have contacted coronavirus and placed under quarantine for 14 days.

Although the measure is understandably supposed to be a deterrent to Kenyans who are minded to violate government initiatives to curb the coronavirus, it raises fundamental issues regarding the constitutionality of the directive, keeping in mind that laws must be clear, reasonable, necessary and proportionate and pursue a legitimate aim.

Firstly, it raises pertinent issues regarding the rights of persons arrested and the right to a fair trial because the Constitution requires all arrested persons to be presented before a court within 24 hours and entitles them to bail and bond.

The Public Health Act also requires such persons to be arrested, charged and possibly fined Sh1,000. Moreover, only a court of law can allow the government to hold a person beyond this period in very specific circumstances.

Secondly, many question the rationale by the State that flouting curfew means a person is likely infected. Does the fact that you were outside past 7pm have a measurable correlation with your likelihood of infection – or is it a ploy to extrajudicially punish those flouting regulations?

Thirdly, the Sh20,000 fine for failure to wear a face mask may be considered overkill, considering that 37 per cent of Kenyans live on less than $2 (Sh200) a day. It is noteworthy that face masks are scarce and expensive.

There is mounting evidence that police are using the harsh curfew provisions and the punitive punishment regarding face masks to extort Kenyans. The prospect of paying Sh20,000 or being forcedly quarantined is motivation enough to bribe an officer to let you go.

Kenyans have criticised police for enforcing the Covid-19 laws without observing the very regulations that they are enforcing. Most do not wear face masks, gloves or observe guidelines on social distancing. They are often seen in crowded vehicles and are very hands-on when arresting members of the public, exposing themselves to the coronavirus.

The irony is that the officers will interact and expose themselves to those violating regulations and proceed to deliver them to quarantine centres, while they, now exposed, continue interacting with other Kenyans in the line of duty.

Several State-run quarantine centres have also been criticised for being unsuitable for isolation and quarantining due to close proximity among those in quarantine, poor sanitation standards and the sharing of amenities such as toilets and showers.

The priority of every government intervention should be to save lives by slowing the spread of Covid-19 and ensuring adequate treatment of those infected. A bare minimum of such facilities is the real isolation of people for the required duration. To put people in a dormitory-like setting completely defeats the purpose of the exercise.

There is now a need for a delicate balance of public safety and public health. The government needs to deploy deliberate and judicious approaches in its interventions. If someone is found outside during curfew, the officers involved must be humane and use common sense to verify the reasons for violation.

The State should borrow the 'first do no harm' principle that requires that all interventions must not cause further or unnecessary damage or suffering.

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

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Are Kenyans doing enough to help government fight the spread of Covid-19?

Majority are doing what is expected of them in helping the government combat coronavirus.

Jacob Libuyi



YES

Most Kenyans wear face masks and almost every home has improvised water taps that enable them to wash hands more often with soap. Many people are working at home, and keeping indoors has minimised movement and interaction, which enhances social distancing.

Business owners strictly observe stipulated guidelines, including designating hand washing points at their premises and limiting the customers who visit their shops to avoid crowding. But it is worth noting that a lot has to be done in terms of sensitising citizens on the proper use of masks to stay safe.

County governments should consider distributing reusable masks to the people free of charge. The national government's gesture to give food and cash assistance to poor families is a major boost to the fight against Covid-19 because beneficiaries will not have to worry about what to eat and be tempted to go out there and risk contracting the virus.

We would like to see a ban on hawking of 'fake' masks because the business could negate gains already made by exposing unsuspecting Kenyans who buy such commodities to protect themselves. The quality of masks is key in cushioning people from contracting the virus.

Restricted entry into counties and availability of compulsory screening roadblocks mounted by county governments will help in controlling infections.

Mr Libuyi is a community strategic leader

Although some citizens and institutions have done their part in trying to flatten the Covid-19 curve, a few have not. Most institutions closed down and the State asked people to stay at home unless absolutely necessary, but you will still see people invite guests to their houses and venture out when they do not offer any essential services.

James Sakwa



NO

There are people who do not wash hands, maintain social distance or wear masks as expected. These challenges have even been exhibited in quarantine centres by law enforcers and citizens who venture out clandestinely to drink and party. We have seen drunk youth illegally ferried in an ambulance to beat the curfew. We also saw people escape from KMTC Nairobi quarantine centre.

Majority of county governments are not yet in a state of emergency preparedness, save for Mombasa and Machakos, which have demonstrated some level of seriousness. It is pathetic that the State and county governments are not hiring medical laboratory graduates whose services are critical at this moment.

Clearly one can see that whereas majority of citizens are busy trying to flatten the Covid-19 curve, a few with ulterior motives are exposing others and taking advantage of their positions to do things that are unacceptable. This must be corrected if we are to win this war.

Mr Sakwa is the Secretary General, Association of Kenya Medical Laboratory Assessors

Text/Photos: John Shilitsa

PALAVER



A Kenyan living and studying in New Zealand is not happy with how the government is handling coronavirus. He says: "Please remind the government to stop criminalising being positive for Covid-19. Cartels seem to have hatched a plan of getting illegal money through forced quarantine from sick people who need more compassion, empathy and support. I wish someone would remind Hon Mutahi Kagwe that he is the Cabinet Secretary for Health, not secretary for Covid-19. Very annoying, if you ask me".

We keep blaming police officers for one indiscretion or another. But Palaver will give you that the police service curriculum at the Kiganjo Police Training College does not equip its officers to see an opportunity in every misfortune of the ordinary citizens. The curriculum also doesn't teach them that 'to be humane is a cardinal sin'. Worse than the police are private hospitals that are now seeking mileage from the misery of ordinary citizens. They charge almost 10 times the going rate for anything medical. Who will save Kenyans from this exploitation?

Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko is a lone ranger. He has always believed he was such a smart guy, that nobody can pull wool over his eyes. But then, belatedly, he has discovered that when he signed the deed of transfer, in which his county government ceded four functions to the national government, he did not know what he was doing. That not only marks him as someone who is incompetent to run Nairobi, it makes him a candidate for court appearances for failing to 'widely consult', as the Constitution requires, before putting pen to paper.

Still on Sonko, he should be told in no uncertain terms that any threat on his part to revoke the deed of transfer is nothing but hot air. As the man said, 'ignorance is no defence', and in case Sonko is unaware, what big brother wants, big brother gets at his own convenience and timing. Governor Sonko should not rub the powers that be the wrong way. It is easier for him to eat humble pie, accept he is largely a ceremonial governor and let any jibes pass. No one said it would be a walk in the park.

The ravages of coronavirus mean that many families require assistance from the government to see them through, especially after the means through which they could raise some money got blocked. In Kakamega recently, Governor Wycliffe Oparanya said almost 800,000 families are poor and vulnerable and need help. Now, that is almost half the population of Kakamega County, which has about 1.8 million people. How come that high a number of people are destitute in a county that, on paper, is doing a lot for its people?

Write to us:
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Plea bargaining boon for war on corruption

Betty Waitherero



2020 is a year of the surreal, we are living in a pandemic, entire countries have gone on lockdown, healthcare professionals have become our first line of defence and entire government institutions have to finally become digitally savvy, conducting business via conference calls and somehow getting their work done while maintaining social distance and strict hygiene.

The changes necessitated by the Covid-19 government response may be long term; indeed, at this point in time, Kenya is just beginning to face the oncoming tsunami of infections if we compare our current trajectories with countries like Italy or the UK. It is likely that this unusual turn of events has likely permanently changed the way our society, economy and government works.

For institutions that were already ICT ready like the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the drastic changes in work culture due to Covid-19 responses are taken in stride. The measures taken by the ODPP include limiting access to their offices, provision of hand sanitisers and face masks to staff and embracing of conferencing technology such as Zoom for meetings and to link with other criminal justice actors such as the National Police Service, the Judiciary and the Kenya Prisons Services for serious cases that must be handled during this lockdown period.

Not to be deterred by the pandemic, in the fight against corruption, ODPP has adopted diversion and plea bargaining in high-profile corruption cases, with the first notable case involving five banks involved in the Sh11 billion NYS scandal, which has seen the lenders refund the taxpayer Sh385 million.

The five banks last year paid Sh271 million in fines for failing to report suspicious transactions to the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) as required by the Banking Act and the industry regulator's guidelines. Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji said in March that his office opted for the deal because the banks and their managers were not directly involved in the plunder of NYS. Their only crime, he said, was failure to report suspicious transactions.

This is a new dispensation of an old statute; plea bargaining has been a part of the legal framework available in prosecution of cases, but at a rudimentary level, as explained by University of Nairobi scholar Buluma Bwire in 2008 in his academic paper titled, "*The introduction of Plea Agreements into Kenyan Criminal Practice*".

In his paper, Bwire argues that "the introduction of the Criminal Procedure Code (amendment) Bill in 2008, was long overdue, as plea agreements are a cardinal pillar of any legal system's criminal practice and their absence (up to that point) in the Kenyan legal system has been eminently lamentable."

The DPP's strategic approach for 2020, includes utilising section 137A of the Criminal Procedure Code to enter into agreement with an accused person or his representatives after negotiations regarding charges, in a sort of give-and-take agreement. In the case of the NYS banks, the fines paid are just part of the negotiated agreement and it is expected that their co-operation in investigations will also bear fruit for the prosecution.

Tackling corruption cases can be tedious, and often the process is slow and arduous, proceedings take months or even years of piecing together information, collaborating evidence, confirming witness testimonies and finding the right people to charge and the right laws to apply.

To understand how the NYS cases are being handled, you need to think of each outcome as a piece of a giant jigsaw puzzle, slowly being arranged and linked together, step by step until finally the final picture comes together.

Sometimes these pieces, like the plea bargaining agreement between the DPP and the banks looks like a set-back, after all, to any concerned citizen, the best outcome would be for all parties involved in a corruption case involving billions to be convicted and sent to jail. But if the big picture is kept in mind, these plea agreements should ultimately result in successful prosecution of what can be considered one of Kenya's most famous corruption cases.

Plea bargaining may well become more utilised in the fight against corruption, with the overall intent to ease the burden of these cases on the judicial system as well as to shorten the time taken and reduce the backlog of cases being handled by the DPP and the EACC. This by no means indicates that people are buying their freedom or escaping justice, rather it means that justice comes sooner and swifter for perpetrators.

Ms Waitherero is a journalist

Risky behaviour. People are breaking the social distancing rule with abandon

Things are bad? You ain't seen nothing yet

Al Kags



As we come to the end of April, I fear that we must brace ourselves for a harrowing May. If we thought that the measures the government has taken so far to try and curb the Covid-19 pandemic are tough, I think we haven't seen anything yet.

Let us start with the basics. The numbers of newly confirmed Covid-19 infections that Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe will announce today happened two weeks ago. That means people who are confirmed today were infected two weeks ago, and in that time, the virus has been incubating in their bodies.

What's worse is that they have probably infected numerous others unknowingly as they went about their lives. This week we heard a series of stories that show that our behaviour will lead to an explosion of the number of infected people over the next two to three weeks. For instance, a Nakuru MCA died in a grisly car accident at the weekend. Videos shared on social media suggest the MCA had been at a party with friends on Saturday.

The video shows them breaking the social distancing rule as people hugged to welcome a new entrant to the party. One of them even warned, "*Haiya*! You guys, you are not supposed to hug!" and then laughed. If the video is authentic, I have seen no reports of any action being taken against the friends of the MCA.

Drinks and bhang

We also saw a report of a Red Cross official who dispatched an ambulance to go and collect her child and the child's friends from a party where they had been drinking during curfew hours. This incident would have passed unnoticed had the youth in the ambulance not recorded themselves enjoying the ride and shared the video on social media.

A cursory look at social media platforms Instagram and Snapchat shows that many young people are not social distancing. I have been attending a series of Zoom conferences online organised by communications agency Thellesi Company and the Emerging Young Leaders Foundation, in which youth have been talking about their experiences. What I have heard from the mouths of these young people is chilling.

What many young people are doing is that they have been congregating during the day armed with drinks and bhang during lockdown hours to "have fun". Today at this house and tomorrow at another.

"I have had way more sex than I have ever had before the lockdown – I even wonder if the coil (contraceptive) will hold!" a young lady confessed in one of those calls.

"We have to smash to release stress," said another. For the uninitiated, 'smash' is a euphemism for having sex.

They went on to explain that they organise to visit each other for sex at their apartments and even admitted they sometimes have multiple partners.

According to Conrad Mochu, the CEO of Thellesi Company, Kenya should brace for a "reproductive health epidemic" in the coming months, as abortions, new HIV and STD infections, and unwanted pregnancies could increase, especially in young people in their 20s.

This week we also saw a chilling video of persons scaling a wall at Kenya Medical Training Institute in Nairobi to run away from quarantine. It was reported that about 50 people were involved in this 'prison break' and were yet to be captured by the time of writing this article.

Pictures released by activist Boniface Mwangi show quarantine centres in deplorable condition. The pictures show beds strewn in large dormitory-like halls with no social distancing. In each of the beds, people only have one blanket and no pillow. In some of those pictures, we saw people lying on the floor with nothing to cover them. Is it any wonder that people would run away?

Because of such conditions, people would be afraid to come out and volunteer themselves for quarantine.

"It's like a prison," a tweet read from someone allegedly in quarantine. It is no wonder that some unscrupulous policemen are taking advantage of the curfew regulations to demand bribes from people who face quarantine.

An idea the government should explore is using hotels that are currently empty as quarantine centres. The owners of the hotels can be asked to strip them down to the basics and the government should set aside an amount to pay the hotel owners for their trouble. This way, the hotels will gain some revenue during this difficult time and people can be quarantined with more dignity.

The time has come for us to all hold each other seriously accountable. As Mr Kagwe said on Wednesday this week, we must report people who are not behaving correctly. We must call out people who act to risk the lives of others. We must also hold the government accountable for its actions in handling this pandemic.

There should be public accounting of how the money that has been made available for this war is being spent, and we must call on CS Fred Matiang'i to actively investigate the conduct of the police and other officials taking advantage of these regulations for their personal gain.

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



It's time we faced up to our Achilles heel

Benard Mokamba



It is uncanny how the convergence of events can validate one's reality so fully. The recent dealings with Covid-19 seem to have validated the government's focus on the Big Four Agenda.

Let me explain. Recently, we discovered how we need to bolster our healthcare system so that it can provide services to our population. We have been faced with the realisation that we need more healthcare workers, that we need more primary healthcare facilities, and more critically, that we need to have a stronger response system in times of healthcare emergencies.

The Universal Healthcare Pillar under the Big Four Agenda is geared towards strengthening service delivery in the health sector so that all Kenyans have access to quality healthcare at an affordable price.

Isn't it uncanny that this emergency highlights the importance of this pillar?

With the global supply chain strained with the need to supply medical equipment, personal protective equipment and even masks to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we have realised the importance of having a minimum amount of internal manufacturing capacity.

Again, the manufacturing pillar is so critical to creating new growth and putting people back to work. In addition, it has become extremely clear that there is a need to improve our performance in manufacturing so that we can respond adequately in times like these that require reliance on internal production systems.

It is quite apt then that the Big Four Agenda was seeking to strengthen manufacturing capacity.

Food security is perhaps the easiest to grasp as one of our critical areas of need as a nation. Realising that many people, especially in the urban centres, rely on purchases to feed themselves, it is no wonder that a total lockdown scenario would be devastating for many.

Simply put, our urban centres rely heavily on trade to put food in the mouths of those whose lives are dependent on daily wages.

In addition, the production of food is in areas outside of our urban centres and it is important to keep trade lines open to keep our cities fed.

If farmers outside of cities are disincentivised through a collapse of markets in the city centres, for sure our food security will be in great jeopardy.

And now, of course, the importance of the food supply and production network in Kenya has been brought to the fore of our consciousness as we debate how best to stave off the spread of Covid-19.

However, it is now dawning to many that long before this disease, this administration was contemplating ways of helping us to secure food and nutrition for our population.

Lastly, the issue of affordable housing is also related to Covid-19. The fact that we have nearly 60 per cent of our urban population living in inhuman conditions, in great densities, in informal settlements and slums, has become an issue we need to confront.

The affordable housing programme sought to provide decent and adequate housing – with a certain minimum standard for access to acceptable sanitation services.

It has become apparent in these times of the pandemic that there is a direct relationship between health outcomes and the state of human settlements and the standard of living. This is not something new in public policy and it is a fact that has been acknowledged across all levels of government.

The Affordable Housing Programme (AHP), as part of its main interventions, sought to create well-planned cities with access to services that promote sustainable livelihoods.

From ensuring that people have housing units with water reticulation, decent bathrooms, access to energy, organised refuse collection and other services, AHP is a programme that sought to transform the way in which ordinary Kenyans experience daily living conditions.

It is possible to see how access to affordable housing, another of the pillars in the Big Four Agenda, is critical for responsiveness to the realities posed by Covid-19.

For us to create lasting disaster management, emergency response, improved public health indicators, and improved service delivery in urban areas, we must address how our human settlements are built, structured and financed.

This is the promise of affordable housing and we need to think on how best to keep this in our ambitions as a country.

Mr Mokamba is a communication consultant

It has become apparent in these times of the pandemic that there is a direct relationship between health outcomes and the state of human settlements

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

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FROM THE WEB

Machakos County unveils Covid-19 mass testing and isolation facility at the Kenyatta Stadium

■ **Ole Nchoe:** The governor should have identified and upgraded one of Machakos' health facilities instead. But as usual, our public relations governor is all over media. One month later, this facility will not be there.



Maina Mwangi: Just think of a government made up of Alfred Mutua, Hassan Joho, Fred Matiang'i and Mutahi Kagwe. In just 10 years, we would be proud of Kenya.

Samson Adhanja: Positive thinking. Kudos Governor Alred Mutua.

Iggie Ignatius: This is the kind of preparedness we expect, not politics. Well done Governor Mutua.

Isa Njuchi: Well done, but prevention of Covid-19 should be prioritised.

SMS

Veronica Onjoro: Many people are donating masks in millions but not food. How are the poor recipients going to survive without food?

■ **Patrick Nzaro:** It is high time that other counties emulated what the government of Mombasa County is doing. All our efforts are needed if we are to defeat this virus and Hassan Joho



is leading by example.

■ **Muhsin Shale:** The inevitable outcome of the proposed tax changes is that trading activity at the Nairobi Securities Exchange will drastically fall to economically unviable levels. This will not only put dozens of firms in the financial industry out of business, but also negate the progress Kenya has made to position itself as the financial gateway to Africa.

Economy

State should scrap tax on petroleum products



The mitigation strategies put forth by the government since the Covid-19 was declared a pandemic, although a bit late, could save our country from drowning. We must admit that the dynamics of Covid-19 vary from one country to another. In Kenya, for instance, we have more than 200 cases with 14 deaths, a month after the first case was reported locally. The US has already reported more than 40,000 deaths with about 800,000 cases. As the pandemic continues to spread and deaths continue to soar worldwide, there is a need for our government to come up with crisis response strategies to save the Kenyans living hand to mouth. The government has encouraged its citizen to stay at home. This of course is a good idea. We want to contain the spread of Covid-19. However, it is more applicable for people working in the formal sector and who use computers as tools of trade. For those in the informal sector, this will not work. For them, it is either you stay at home and fail to fend for your family or risk going to work and contract coronavirus. It is a reality that is bitter to swallow. If you are working in a manufacturing industry, you must be there physically to aid in production; working from home here remains an illusion. Of utmost importance now is for the government to work with the private sector to ensure that as a country we move together despite the challenges surrounding us in order to alleviate the uncertainty faced by the ordinary citizens in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

Desperate times call for desperate measures. Government should lead by example. We expect the president to scrap VAT on petroleum products; as he did in 2018. This would drop the price of petroleum products significantly. Most public transport operators have already doubled fare, making it even more difficult for those in the informal sector to commute. The global crude oil price has dropped significantly something that is yet to felt in the country. Kenyans are also overburdened by high cost of electricity. A call for reduction of electricity cost have been raised by various leaders but all these have fallen on deaf ears. The arrogance of Kenya Power is occasioned by its monopoly. This is a company that reaps huge profits at end of every financial year by exploiting Kenyans. Reduction of electricity tariffs will definitely lower the production cost. The country is currently experiencing heavy downpour and there is no justification for Kenya Power to exploit Kenyans with high cost of electricity. This will also help manufacturing industries as it will lower the cost of production and make the prices of basic commodities affordable to the common citizen. The government must, therefore, do something on petroleum and electricity tariffs to prove that it has the interest of Kenyans at heart. **Nicholas Ochieng Oduor. ochiengnicoh@gmail.com**

Letters.

Kudos CS Peter Munya for fighting cartels in agriculture



In our days in primary school, we were taught that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Then, farmers were making good money from coffee, tea, miraa and other agricultural products. Later, earnings from farming started dwindling and life became unbearable for farmers. Some uprooted their coffee bushes to plant food crops. Most recently, we have seen farmers uprooting tea bushes since they are no longer bringing any income.

But there is hope now, thanks to Agriculture CS Peter Munya, who has started cracking the whip on unscrupulous middlemen and cartels that have impoverished farmers for years. Now the cartels that operated in the tea sector have their days numbered. The ministry is returning money to the pockets of farmers. With the recently issued guidelines on the tea sector, it is only a matter of time before the farmer can start smiling all the way to the bank. The ministry has also dismantled fertiliser cartels and the prices of this vital commodity are coming down, bringing down the cost of production and in the long run, making farming profitable and farm products cheaper to the final consumer.

Bringing fertilisers closer to the farmer is another initiative the ministry has taken to reduce on the cost of transport. As a result, more farmers will access fertiliser and improve production. Extending credit facilities to coffee farmers will revive the coffee industry and have our 'green gold' back in the market. In the past, a slip showing that one had delivered coffee to a factory would save their children from being sent home for school fees as they waited for payment. This is the way to go. The CS' bold moves are commendable and we all need to support him to make farming more profitable. We can still move from subsistence to commercial farming. Lastly, we need to be prepared for fightback since the cartels will not give up their firm grip on the agriculture sector without a fight. Corruption will definitely fight back. Kudos to CS Munya and his team for being there for the ordinary farmer. **Elijah Kimathi, Meru enkims@yahoo.com**

TALK OF THE DAY



Coronavirus and the public health sector

Some of the people stuck in China, India and the UK due to coronavirus pandemic are Kenyans. As part of showing concern for her citizens, Kenya has volunteered to provide a plane to bring the people back, but at their cost. Additionally, as the current measures suggest, when they arrive in Kenya, they are supposed to be put under a 14-day quarantine before they mingle with others. The government could have done better to help her stranded citizens. These are the people who were unexpectedly booted out of their apartments or lost their jobs. This means they did not have time to prepare financially. Even though the government has done well by offering a plane, it should go an extra mile to show concern and care by making this free rather than leaving her citizens to suffer humiliation in a foreign country. Precious Nihorowa, Nairobi

The shortage of blood in Kenyan hospitals puts many lives at risk. The lives of mothers who require blood after delivery are now at risk. Sickle cell anaemia patients who need blood regularly are now fearing for their lives. The Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Kenya Red Cross Society, must find ways to mitigate this. The shortage calls for new methods of collecting blood since the closure of schools and the stay-at-home directive crippled the blood donation. The ministry could schedule days where the public will have a chance to donate blood. Door to door campaigns should also be conducted so that people are encouraged to donate blood. Creating awareness in mainstream and social media will also come in handy. Chiriba Patrick, Mombasa.

The public health sector, which has perennially been rocked by strikes and other challenges in the past, is now embroiled in yet another problem - the inability to deliver drugs countrywide. This has resulted in a biting shortage of drugs in various county hospitals. Unfortunately, this shortage coincides with the outbreak of coronavirus. Drastic measures need to be taken if we intend to contain this virus. Tonny Biwott, Eldoret.

In Brief

Baringo. Officer held for shooting, injuring two

■ A police officer in Kabarnet has been arrested after he shot two people, injuring them. Kabarnet OCPD Francis Gachoki said the police constable has been disarmed and locked up. Mr Gachoki said they handed over the matter to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations after which the file will be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to provide the way forward. The victims, Amos Kiprotich and Edwin Kibet, were treated at Kabarnet Hospital and discharged. Gachoki said the case was an isolated one and should not spoil the good working relationship the police have with the community. **[Julius Chepkwony]**

Taveta. House adjourns due to quorum hitch



■ County Assembly Speaker Meshack Maganga was forced to adjourn the morning session due to a quorum hitch. Only eight members were in attendance out of the 33 as the assembly resumed sessions yesterday. "The house standing orders cannot allow us to continue with the morning session when there are no members. Let us keep time and achieve the quorum in the afternoon," said Maganga as he adjourned the house. The house adjourned on March 23 in efforts to contain spread of coronavirus. There have been concerns about quorum hitch in the assembly in the revent past. **[Renson Mnyamwezi]**

Kajiado. Couple nabbed trying to sneak into TZ

■ A couple has been arrested at Olpusimoru trading centre as they attempted to flee to Tanzania from their home in Majengo, Narok town. Area Deputy County Commissioner Mutuku Mwenga said the State had directed the pair to self-isolate after they arrived four days ago from neighbouring Nakuru County where two Covid-19 cases have so far been reported. The administrator was speaking at Narok Woman Representative Soipan Tuya's office where he oversaw the distribution of water tanks, sanitisers and soap courtesy of the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF). **[Robert Kiplagat]**

Nakuru. Governor pledges to support region's manufacturers

Local firms now churn out PPEs to meet high demand

Face masks will be subjected to quality tests by Kenya Bureau of Standards and Ministry of Health.

By Kennedy Gachuhi
kgachuhi@standardmedia.co.ke



A Bedi Investments Textile factory worker collects Personal Protective Equipment for packaging. The PPEs will be used by heath workers in Nakuru. [Kipsang Joseph, Standard]



The war against coronavirus has been intensified with various manufacturers in Nakuru town increasing the output of their production lines to meet high demand for essential products.

The companies include textiles giant Bedi Investments, which was primarily producing garments for export to Europe. Jaswinder Bedi, the company manager, said they received approval from the government to produce Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs). They have since rolled out mass production.

"We have stopped production of garments for export and now focus on manufacturing PPEs. Kenya is at war with the virus and we must equip our frontline soldiers, who are the medics, for them to give their best," said Bedi.

He added that it took the company two weeks of research and consultation with global experts to have consensus on the quality of PPEs to produce.

"We are producing 5,000 sets of PPEs, which include masks and gowns. We had 400 workers, who would have been laid off but instead we employed more," said Bedi.

Higher production

The company now intends to expand its production and roll out 10,000 sets per day in the next one week to meet the local demand.

"Having changed the model of our business, we are looking into supplying other neighbouring countries, but Kenya comes first," he said.

Bedi said the company will make a donation of masks to the local community and ensure the residents access them at subsidised costs.

Governor Lee Kinyanjui lauded the company's work, adding that his administration will support the local manufacturers by procuring the products from them.

"The national government has approved the products from the textile factory. The county shall procure its next batch from the company to promote local industries during these tough economic times," said Kinyanjui.

A production line for hand sanitisers is under construction at the Menengai Oil Refineries, which specialises in manufacture of edible oil, soap and detergents. The company's General Manager, Nishil Sanghrajka, said demand for soap and sanitisers has grown exponentially since Covid-19 cases were reported in Kenya, which informed their decision to diversify.

"We are working on production of sanitisers. It was not among our products. In a week's time the production line will be up and running. We have also increased our soap production," said Sanghrajka.

The company, alongside Pepea Millers, which produces maize flour, made massive donations of soap and flour to the county emergency response committee for distribution to the needy.

Nakuru Royal Industries Chairman Yusuf Hassanali explained that the company increased its production capacity for water tanks necessary in supporting sanitation.

"We have donated water tanks to police stations and various households across the county. We have also subsidised our prices to make them more affordable during these hard times," said Hassanali.

Hands on deck

All Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions in the county have been directed to start mass production of face masks in the wake of novel coronavirus pandemic.

The County Public Health Department has urged companies and institutions to make masks that meet standards set by the World Health Organisation.

"Principals and instructors have been informed on how the masks should be made to ensure they meet the set standards," said Governor Kinyanjui.

Masks from the institutions will further be subjected to quality tests as per the Kenya Bureau of Standards and Ministry of Health before they are made available for public use.

Mr Kinyanjui said they will provide the necessary materials for production of quality masks amid protests by a section of medics that what has been supplied was of low quality.

Meanwhile, the County Emergency Response Committee received foodstuff donations worth Sh300,000 from Nakuru business community led by Mwangi Muthee. The food will be given to vulnerable households in Kivumbini, Rhonda and Bondeni, among other low-income areas.

"We have donated maize flour, beans, cooking oil, and sanitisers. We ask other stakeholders to support the initiative," said Mr Muthee.

'Prison break'

Two suspects arrested after KMTC quarantine escape

Two of the 50 people who escaped from a mandatory government quarantine centre have been arrested in Mathare, Nairobi.

The escapees scaled a perimeter wall at the Kenya Medical Training College on Tuesday evening.

Witnesses said the victims were eating dinner when it started to rain and they saw security officers guarding the premises take cover.

They reportedly took advantage of the situation and jumped out.

The two suspects were on Wednesday taken to the Kasarani chief's camp, awaiting the police to record their statements.

Officers said they would be taken back to the centres to complete the quarantine before being charged in court.

Curfew measures

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday said those who escaped from the facility would be arrested.

"You can't be a burden on law-abiding Kenyans if you were found violating curfew measures to tame Covid-19," he said.

Reports indicate that some of those who escaped were still waiting for their Covid-19 test results after samples were taken to the lab.

Meanwhile, more than 200 people were on Monday arrested and detained by police officers in Nairobi after they broke the Public Health Act.

This took the number of people arrested so far and placed under forced quarantine at their cost to 506, said Nairobi Regional Commissioner Wilson Njega. Some of those arrested on Monday were, however, released later in the night after being granted police bonds.

More than 300 others had been rounded up at the weekend and detained before being taken to quarantine centres. They were arrested at roadblocks, clubs, homes, weddings and other social joints.

Mr Njega said Kilimani, Kasarani, Kayole and Buruburu had the highest number of people violating public health guidelines.

He said officers have so far arrested 1,088 people in the past week for flouting the rules. Some were taken to court and fined between Sh15,000 and Sh20,000 and told to self-isolate. **[Cyrus Ombati]**

Kakamega

Doctors cry foul over lack of PPEs and harassment

Doctors at the Kakamega County Referral Hospital have threatened to down their tools in a week's time if they are not protected from various forms of harassment by their senior officials.

In a memo to Governor Wycliffe Oparanya, which was signed by the Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU) western branch secretary Sande Charo, the doctors accused the County Health Executive Rachael Okumu and Chief Officer Beatrice Etemesi of high-handedness and intimidation.

They said the referral and other sub-county hospitals were ill-equipped to handle cases of coronavirus, should they arise, and their efforts to escalate the matter with the two top officers was met by intimidation, demotion and threat to transfer from the top county hospital.

Also, the medics allege Kakamega Teaching and Referral Hospital may not be operational in July, as envisaged by the governor, because consultant doctors who could not withstand the intimidation have resigned.

The memo, seen by *The Standard*, says the hospital has no adequate Personal Protective Equipment like surgical masks, gloves, among other requirements in the fight against Covid-19. This, despite claims by Mr Oparanya that his administration had set aside Sh85 million to buy the PPEs and pay allowances.

The doctors have demanded the two senior officers be moved from the health docket and be investigated over spending of Sh27 million meant for Community Health Volunteers.

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

They also complained of deplorable working environment for health care workers handling Covid-19 patients.

"These officers are working 24 hours without the simplest things like tea and lunch. They are not protected at all in addition to the long working hours," said a union member.

Charo said there exists a weak link between the health executives and medics in the fight against Covid-19, which has left health care workers exposed and at the risk of contracting the virus.

Antony Akoto, the KMPDU Western Branch chairman, said the county is yet to train health care workers on how to fight the pandemic. Ms Etemesi said she was aware of the matters raised, but declined to make any comment. **[Nathan Ochunge]**

Probe. Detectives handling the case will now determine how to progress with the investigations

Autopsy shows Matete's husband had severe burns

Report says Nigerian John Apewajoye sustained 60 per cent burns in an alleged gas explosion incident.

By Cyrus Ombati
Combati@standardmedia.co.ke



Gospel musician Ruth Matete's husband had severe body burns that caused his death, a post-mortem examination has showed.

Pathologists' report show that John Apewajoye, a Nigerian pastor, had 60 per cent burns that triggered a condition called sepsis leading to multiple organ failure.

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition caused by the body's response to an infection. The body normally releases chemicals into the bloodstream to fight an infection. Sepsis occurs when the body's response to these chemicals is out of balance, triggering changes that can damage multiple organ systems.

Chief Government pathologist Johansen Oduor said the burns made it impossible for him to recover. There were no other injuries detected on the body, he added.

Detectives handling the case will now determine how to progress with the probe. Already, Ms Matete has been questioned twice over her husband's death.

The detectives also went to Ms Matete's residential home in Athi River, Machakos County, to collect more evidence to help them establish events that preceded Apewajoye's death.

The probe is being handled by detectives from the homicide unit. They took over from their Athi River colleagues. The team reconstructed the scene of the incident as told by Matete.

She was asked to narrate events that led to the gas cylinder accident earlier reported as the cause of her husband's death.

Apewajoye died in hospital after the gas explosion incident in the couple's house at Great Wall Gardens Estate in Athi River.

Matete said Apewajoye was initially taken to Shallom Hospital and later transferred to Bellevue South Hospital in Nairobi, where he was admitted to the High Dependency Unit before being moved to Kenyatta National Hospital. He succumbed to his injuries there.

Matate, who is two months pregnant and the 2012 Tusker Project Fame star, told police her husband died two weeks after he suffered burn wounds.

Officials from the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority are helping police to know if the cylinder was faulty at the time of the incident. They are also working with the company that supplied the cylinder to the couple as part of the investigation.

Islamic Relief Kenya

Tender Notice

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Ref No.	Description
IRK/CIV/SPARE/MYL/13/004/2020	Drilling of one borehole, at Golla sub-location, Moyale Sub-county-Marsabit County
IRK/EQP/ICREP/MDR/15/004/2020	Borehole Equipping and dollarization –Aressa Village, Mandera county
IRK/CIV/ICREP/MDR/16/004/2020	Civil works and steel tank-Aressa Village, Mandera County

Interested bidders are invited to request for the tender documents by sending an email to Procurement.Irk@islamic-relief.or.ke quoting the tender title and reference. The deadline for submission of bids is **30th April 2020** at 16.00hrs.

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI

THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

CHAIRPERSON, THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD

What next? Mudslide victims camp in church



Helpless. Residents of Kichumwa, Elgeyo Marakwet County, at AIC Wewo where they have put up a makeshift camp after their houses were swept away by a mudslide on Tuesday. The tragedy has claimed the lives of 18 people while 17 others are yet to be found. [Kevin Tunoi, Standard]

Punishment. Offenders denied police bond and placed under 14 days quarantine

Locals feel the pinch of order to wear mask

Police inspect vehicles and patrol estates to nab locals flouting guidelines to curb coronavirus

By Fred Kibor
fkibor@standardmedia.co.ke

Crackdown

- Nyumba Kumi and police officers man roadblocks and flag down public service vehicles to check if passengers are wearing masks
- More than 200 people placed under 14-day quarantine at Kaplelach High School in Uasin Gishu County
- The facility is now home to those found holding house parties, defying curfew, illicit brewers, among other law breakers

For Sam Koech (not his real name), the turn of events on March 20 will remain etched in his mind forever.

He is among more than 200 people who were placed under 14-day quarantine at Kaplelach High School in Uasin Gishu County after they allegedly flouted government guidelines to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Koech, an accountant with a local milk outlet in Eldoret, narrated yesterday how together with his wife they woke up looking forward to a good day, but which ended on a bad note.

"We had decided with my wife, who is not employed, to find a place where we can set up a business to supplement our family income. We boarded a matatu to Kimumu shopping centre to look for a shop to rent for my wife to start a business," he recalls.

On the way back to Eldoret town at around noon, members of Nyumba Kumi and police officers manning a roadblock at Hawaii shopping centre flagged down the matatu they had boarded.

"We were not worried since we had our masks, but we were asked to step out of the vehicle and questioned why our masks were not in place," he says on phone.

Their pleas fell on deaf ears as they were ordered to board a police van and their phones confiscated before they were driven to Moiben Police Station. Police told them they would undergo test for Covid-19.

Health is compromised

"After being held in the cells for more than three hours, other people were brought in and we were asked to board a police van and driven to Kaplelach High School. We were asked to inform our families to bring us clothes and bedding as we would be quarantined for 14 days for not wearing our masks properly," he narrates, adding that they were given back their phones.

Koech claims that 70 people were put in one dormitory whose sanitation was in poor state.

Koech's wife, who is expectant, has been forced to give up the comfort of their home. For breakfast, they are served white porridge while for lunch and dinner, they eat ugali with green grams.

The facility is now home to those found holding house parties, defying curfew, illicit brewers, among other law breakers.

"On the first day four of us shared a bed and we had no masks. We feel our health is compromised at this facility more than ever and nobody seems bothered. Now that we are being held together with my wife, we fear for the safety of our children," he says.

> **"Anybody found drinking alcohol and gambling in dens or moving around during curfew hours is considered a coronavirus risk case,"**
>
> Uasin Gishu Health executive Evelyne Rotich

Another victim, June Jemutai (not her real name), is yet to come to terms with her circumstances.

"I had stepped outside my house at Rock Centre estate to buy painkillers for my three-year-old baby and on my way back from the chemist, I was arrested for not wearing a mask and taken to Kaptich Police Station," she recalls.

Hopes of being granted police bond were shattered after she was told to board a police vehicle headed to the quarantine facility.

"We are calling for justice, especially now that nobody has taken our samples for testing," she says.

But in a statement, Uasin Gishu Covid-19 emergency response team explains that the group flouted Covid-19 precautionary measures.

"They were detained because they ignored government directives. Anybody found drinking alcohol and gambling in dens or moving around during curfew hours is considered a coronavirus risk case. This is why you shall be put under 14-day quarantine while you are being taken through the court process," says Uasin Gishu Health executive Evelyne Rotich.

Area County Commissioner Abdirasak Jaldessa visited the quarantine centre and urged the group to observe social distance and sanitation rules.

Nandi

Family escapes death after attack over land dispute

A family in Aldai, Nandi County, is living in fear after unknown people attacked and destroyed their home over a land dispute.

Samuel Rotich, a resident of Kiprotgorik village, said the Saturday night incident almost claimed the lives of his wife and six children.

"We were awakened by a bang on the roof a few minutes past 11pm. I went out to check but the gang continued throwing stones," Rotich said. "In the darkness, I told my wife to move out with the children to safety."

After realising the family had escaped, the gang broke into the house and destroyed their belongings as they hid under the cover of darkness.

What remained, according to Rotich, was broken plastic seats, scattered pieces of utensils and iron sheets cut to pieces.

Emily Jepkoech, Mr Leting's wife, recounted that a heavy stone fell through the iron sheet roof and almost hit her baby.

"Despite our calls for help none of the neighbours came to our rescue. We managed to escape and spend the night a kilometre away from home," she narrated.

According to the family, the incident could have been sparked by a prolonged land dispute between Stephen Maru and eight other people who are claiming ownership of the land.

For more than 20 years, Rotich has been a caretaker of the disputed land.

Kipkorir Kosgei, who claims to be a beneficiary of the land, said they were angered by a move to involve police officers from Kabuchoi to flash them out from the disputed parcel of land.

> **"Despite our calls for help none of the neighbours came to our rescue. We managed to escape and spent the night a kilometre away from home."**
>
> Emily Jepkoech

"The land is owned by the community and we as the sons demand our rights and justice," he said.

But Mr Maru dismissed the claims, saying he bought 22.6 hectares of land in 1975 from the late Kiptabut Kios, claiming that the sons of the deceased attacked Rotich in a bid to take over the land.

"The people encroached into the land and cultivated and upon seeking police intervention to stop the activities, they sought revenge by evicting the caretaker," stated Maru.

According to Aldai Sub-county police boss John Owuoth, Maru reported the invasion of his land to the police.

"Police evicted the people who were conducting agricultural activities in the disputed land," said Mr Owuoth. [Edward Kosut]

TransNzoia

Chinese firm blamed for vandalising barrier

At least 2,000 residents of Namanjalala location in Kwanza constituency are up in arms against a construction company, which they blame for worsening flooding in the area.

The company, which is laying bitumen on the Lessos-Maili Kumi na Moja road, has been accused of demolishing flooding barriers along Sabwani River bridge stretch.

As a result of the flooding, some residents have been displaced and crops swept away at Sabwani, Maliki, Marinda, Kobos and Buyanzi villages following a heavy downpour.

Several homesteads in the areas have been submerged and some of the displaced residents are now in need of relief aid.

"We want the construction company to be held liable for these floods since it demolished the barriers which contained flooding around the area. They have to compensate us," said a resident, John Wekesa.

Area MCA Bernard Wanjala accused the management of the company of overlooking a directive by Devolution Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa to restore the barriers following a meeting last year.

Fix barriers

"I find the management of the company to be arrogant. They had agreed to fix the barriers last year, but they have not done so and people are now counting losses," he said.

They also called on the government to live up to its word of finding a lasting solution to the perennial floods in the region, which leave them counting losses any time it rains heavily. [Osinde Obare]

GIVE FROM LOVE

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Leadership

Elachi yet to ratify Jubilee's new list of officials

Jubilee Party leadership changes at the Nairobi County Assembly are yet to be effected, it has now emerged.

A push and pull has ensued between County Assembly Speaker Beatrice Elachi and the newly appointed leadership over the procedure used by Jubilee Party Secretary General Raphael Tuju in communicating the changes.

Last week, the party in a bid to end wrangles at the City's assembly, announced fresh leadership changes. It reinstated Matopeni Ward MCA Abdi Guyo as the Assembly Majority Leader, replacing Dandora phase two MCA Charles Thuo. Guyo had been ousted in November 2019 following his fall out with the Speaker and Governor Mike Sonko. However, Elachi has since returned to the assembly following her impeachment.

Dandora MCA Peter Wanyoike was appointed as the Deputy Majority Leader taking over from Ziwani MCA Millicent Mugadi. Mihango Ward MCA Paul Kados was further appointed as the new Majority party Chief Whip, replacing nominated MCA June Ndegwa, who held the position since November last year.

South B Ward legislator Waithera Chege was appointed as Deputy Majority Chief Whip. She replaces California Ward MCA Hassan Abdikadir. The party also picked Maringo/Hamza MCA Mark Ndung'u to serve on the Nairobi County Assembly Public Service Board.

Elachi, however, claims Mr Tuju has not served her office with a letter confirming the changes.

"Letters addressed to me have to be tabled on the floor of the House. Remember when Ngara MCA was the Acting Speaker he set a precedence on Elias Otieno. The first leadership only had a verbal communication," said Elachi, while responding to the notification by Mr Kados. **[Josphat Thiong'o]**

Masks. Local production of personal protective equipment



Students at work. Fashion and design students at Belgut Technical and Vocational College have offered to produce 10,000 masks weekly for free distribution to small-scale tea farmers, boda boda operators and members of the public to protect them against coronavirus. [Nikko Tanui, Standard]

Robbery. The 22-year-old victim had gone to buy medicine for ailing relative when the two armed thugs attacked hospital

Student who identified gang leader shot dead in night raid

He reportedly called one of the suspects by name prompting anger and shooting after 7pm on Wednesday.

By Cyrus Ombati
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A university student was shot dead by a gunman he reportedly identified during a robbery in a hospital in Umoja, Nairobi.

Mr Rodgers Opiyo, a final year Accounting student at Meru University, was shot in the neck and died on the spot at the Phadam Medicare Hospital at about 7.30pm on Wednesday.

Opiyo, 22, had gone to buy medicine for his ailing aunt when the two thugs armed with pistols struck.

The doctor on duty told police the gang came in posing as clients at the reception and their main pharmacy. They then ordered them - the doctor, guards, receptionists and two other patients - to lie down and surrender all their valuables and cash.

Opiyo glanced up, called out one of the robbers by name and questioned why they were stealing from him. Within seconds, the gunman pulled the trigger and shot him at close range before escaping with their loot.

Police arrived at the scene moments later, but found the robbers had escaped. Buru Buru police boss Adamson Bungei said they were following vital clues.

"There will be justice to this incident. Efforts to get the gang is ongoing," he said.

Bungei said the student had gone to the hospital chemist to buy medicine. "He called one of the suspects by his name, prompting anger and the shooting. This happened as they were robbing those on the floor," said Bungei.

Fateful day

Opiyo's cousin Michael Otieno said the student's mother died when he was young. He grew up in Umoja where his aunt (his mother's sister) took care of him. He had been in Umoja since college closed last month in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

On the fateful day, Opiyo had been with his aunt in the house when she asked him to go and get her the medication.

"His dad lives in Kilifi with his other siblings and they received the news of the death long after it had happened. We do not know what to do next, but we demand justice," he said.



Rodgers Opiyo, the student who was shot dead in Umoja on Wednesday.

"Opiyo had planned to travel to Kilifi but could not because of the partial lock-down," said Otieno.

Elsewhere, a man was shot and robbed of Sh350,000. The victim was taking the money to a bank in Kariobangi, Nairobi, when he was confronted by two men on a motorcycle.

Witnesses and police said the man resisted an order to surrender the cash prompting the gang to shoot him in the stomach. The gang grabbed the cash and sped off. A hunt was launched for them in vain. The victim was rushed to hospital where he is admitted in stable condition.

Meanwhile, two people were on Tuesday electrocuted in two separate incidents in Nairobi. One died as he repaired metal doors in a house in Ruaraka area, Nairobi. Police said the welder was on duty when he was electrocuted. The incident sparked fire, which was promptly contained. Police said they are investigating the incident to establish how it happened.

Nairobi police boss Philip Ndolo said a team of experts is investigating the incident.

The second incident happened in Kariobangi where a water heater killed a woman. The woman is said to have been heating water in her house when the heater exploded. Ndolo said they were called and informed of the incident minutes after it had happened.

Appointments

County hires new members to head recruitment

The Homa Bay County government has recruited three members to the County Public Service Board as it seeks to hire more staff to bolster service delivery.

The move is expected to end the controversies that dogged the hiring of 120 health workers in the wake of the Covid-19 fight. An attempt to hire the workers had stalled over delays in having in place a complete board.

The new members are Elijah Kodo, Sarah Nekesa and Lawrence K'Oteng. On Wednesday, Homa Bay Senior Principal Magistrate Thomas Obutu inaugurated the new members.

Governor Cyprian Awiti, who also participated in the ceremony, appointed Kodo to serve as the board chairman in an interim capacity.

Awiti challenged the new members to address integrity issues that had dogged the previous board. He said a number of questions had been raised on the manner in which the previous board members conducted themselves, especially on recruitments.

Awiti termed bribery claims during recruitment as a serious issue. "I want the new board members to embrace integrity in service delivery. Let them restore the image of the board," Awiti said.

The county public service board has not been operational since the county assembly passed a motion instructing Awiti to fire three members who were serving in the board. **[James Omoro]**



Nyandarua

Woman, child killed in dawn attack at Ol Jororok village

Shock has gripped Chakareli village in Ol Jororok after unknown assailants raided it killing a woman and her five-year-old daughter. Another daughter and a niece, to the deceased, escaped with injuries and are admitted to Nyahururu County Referral Hospital.

Ol Jororok sub-county police commander Isaac Ruto said the four were sleeping in the same house when they were attacked at around 5am on Thursday. The assailants attacked their victims using crude weapons after gaining access to the house by digging a hole on the wall..

Police officers on patrol heard screams from the house and responded.

"Our officers were enforcing the curfew in the morning when they heard screams from the home. They moved in only to find the four injured with a hole dug leading to their house," said Ruto.

Ruto said the woman, aged 30, together with her daughter, died while receiving treatment at the Nyahururu hospital.

"The other two have been admitted with head injuries. They are in critical condition," added Ruto.

The motive of the attackers has not been established, but police are pursuing the deceased woman's husband. The two separated last month.

"It is a theory we are following. We do not know why the family separated. They have been living at their grandmother's house," police said.

Two weeks ago, another woman was killed in the same village. The attackers dug a hole on her house's wall to gain entry. **[James Munyeki]**

In Brief

Machakos. Needy families receive goodies

■ About 100 families yesterday received food donations and coronavirus protective gear from a well-wisher. The vulnerable families were each reached at their homes in Lower Kiandani sub-location, Mumbuni, in Machakos town Sub-county. Peter Kioko, also the Kanu secretary Machakos County, was assisted by local chief Richard Nzioki to reach the families. Each member of the families got a mask, sanitiser and assorted foodstuff which makes a package for three days. "I call upon other well wishers to come out and assist our people instead of leaving the whole burden to the national and county governments," said Kioko, who also trained the beneficiaries on how to use the protective gear. **[Victor Nzuma]**

Kajiado. 200,000 face severe food shortage



■ At least 200,000 people risk starving to death in the county's rural areas. The situation has been worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic. Governor Joseph ole Lenku (pictured) said plans were underway to distribute food to the needy. "A big number of my people live in rural areas and cannot afford to put food on the table." He said the most affected population is in Mailua (Kajiado Central), Torosei (Kajiado West), and Ilkilunyeti in Kajiado East Sub-county. "These people are not able to afford a meal, leave alone buying face masks," he said. Lenku was addressing residents of Kajiado North who benefited from 15,000 face masks, an assortment of sanitisers and more than 150 hand washing facilities. Lenku also feared the urban population in the county was more prone to get the virus than those in the villages. **[Peterson Githaiga]**

Kerio Valley. Kaben Sambalat and Chesegon were the leading source of the mangoes

Factory's dilemma as mudslide ruins farms

The factory had just gotten approvals by Kebs to start producing mango juice.

By By Stephen Rutto
Srutto@standardmedia.co.ke

A Sh100 million mango processing factory established recently in Kerio Valley is facing difficulties even before sending its first products to the market.

The factory, established by the Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) two years ago, has been seriously affected after farms supplying it with fruits for processing were carried away by a recent mudslide that hit the region.

The factory had just gotten approvals by the Kenya Bureau of Standards, with the first product expected in the market in September this year.

Kaben, Sambalat and Chesegon areas, which were worst hit, were the leading source of the mangoes being processed at the factory.



Residents of Chesegon at the border of Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot counties are knee-deep in mud and rubble following a mudslide. Farmers are counting heavy losses after their farms were swept away. [Kevin Tunoi]

Trail of destruction

While most of the farms were swept away, some were submerged leaving a trail of destruction.

Julius Tolimo, a mango farmer in Chesegon, said his three-acre farm with about 150 trees was submerged.

"I was expecting my first harvest later this year; this was my only hope as I had switched from pastoralism to farming. My farm is no more and all I have been left with are rocks and mud that came down from the escarpment," said Tolimo.

He said his dilemma now was moving the rocks from his farm.

"My wish is to start all over again but as at now there is nothing much I can do and my prayer is for the government to step in and help us get back our farms," he added.

John Kimutai, another farmer, is also counting losses as his farm wasn't spared either. It is estimated that over 100,000 mango tress could have been destroyed by the mudslide.

"We are living in fear since the heavy rains are still ongoing. Some of us have already been hit so hard as we had so much expectations on the factory, which was ready and willing to buy our fruits," lamented Kimutai.

KVDA Managing Director Sammy Naporos said the factory has a capacity to process 30 tonnes of mangoes daily.

"Sambalat and Chesegon areas were our biggest suppliers which leaves us at a disadvantage. It will take a while for farmers to get their farms back in order but we will continue supporting them. Right now we are in the process of supplying them with grafted mango seedlings," said Mr Naporos.

> **"I was expecting my first harvest later this year; this was my only hope as I had switched from pastoralism to farming."**
>
> **Julius Tolimo, a mango farmer**

He said the authority was assessing the damage to establish the exact number of mango trees destroyed by the mudslides.

Agriculture Chief Administrative Secretary Linah Kilimo said the government will look into land usage in the area and advise farmers to avoid being caught up in such disasters in future.

"A comprehensive geological report that will inform land usage along the hanging valley is needed. The government will make difficult decisions and I urge residents to support these," Kilimo said.

Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Principal Secretary Micah Powon said the national government will work closely with KVDA to grow commercial bamboo and mangoes along the landslide prone escarpments.

The factory was a reprieve for mango producers, who have been incurring heavy losses due to poor marketing strategies aggravated by poor road network linking Endo, Sambirir, Arror and Soy producing zones and market centres.

Environment

Nowhere to dump tonnes of garbage

Nyeri town is running out of options after yet another ward rep blocked an attempt to dump waste in his locality.

The county government has been facing a garbage disposal crisis since last year when Nyeri town's dumpsite was decommissioned and later closed to pave way for a new bus park.

According to county government records, the decommissioned dumpsite used to receive at least 150 tonnes of garbage every day.

The county began transporting garbage to Gikeu dumpsite in Karima ward, Othaya constituency. However, residents protested and blocked garbage trucks from dumping at the site.

Similar protests erupted at Mweiga dumpsite where area ward rep, Njuguna Kawanjiku, joined residents to confront county workers dumping garbage at the site.

Third protest

Yesterday, Konyu ward rep Eric Wamumbi confronted county officials at the Karindundu dumpsite, Mathira constituency, where garbage from Karatina, Nyeri Town, Tetu and Mukurweini constituencies is ferried every day.

The ward rep protested increased dumping of garbage at the site without proper management.

"The Karindundu dumpsite is located in a residential area, and lately the county has been dumping garbage from all over Nyeri County there; residents are complaining and it is my job to represent their concerns," said Wamumbi.

"Before they closed the Nyeri town dumpsite, Karindundu used to have only two trucks of garbage per day, now there are at least 10 trucks ferrying garbage into my ward. This must be stopped," he said.

Mr Wamumbi was later summoned to Karatina Police Station where he recorded a statement on the protest.

Mathira MP Rigathi Gachagua waded into the controversy, saying he would oppose any plan by the county to have Nyeri town's garbage dumped in his constituency.

"We shall not have garbage dumped anywhere in Mathira. The dumpsite is in a residential area and is a health hazard," Mr Gachagua stated.

He promised to convene a leaders meeting after the coronavirus pandemic to address the issue, which he described as "a provocation".

However, sanitation executive Beth Karimi said she had all the necessary approvals to use the Karindundu dumpsite, and that the four acres on which it stands belong to the county. **[Lydiah Nyawira]**



Why 2020 is set to be the best Ramadhan ever!

BY ISHAQ JUMBE

Muslim clerics are declaring the upcoming holy month of Ramadhan which will be the first time fasting will be observed under epidemic restrictions the best ever. They were quick to add however that faithful require to remain objective and focus on Islamic guidelines emphasizing on safe practices in line with government directives on combating Covid -19.

Traditionally there have been many activities associated with the breaking of the fast during Ramadhan the highlight of which has been breaking the fast. The poor gather in mosques many of which more often than not have a feeding program especially for their benefit.

But with a strong likelihood that the curfew shall still be in force and many worrying about the effects of the new restrictions on Ramadhan, Sheikhs who spoke to the standard have allayed fears that the quality of fasting amid the covid-19 constraints, will be affected.

"If anything, we should prepare for the best Ramadhan ever," says Sheikh Aboud Muhammad of Jundan Mosque, Mombasa.

He explains that Islam teaches that every Ibaadat (worship) performed under hardship attracts better reward than during the time of ease.

"This is the time to exercise patience which is a great virtue and perform our Ramadhan in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the prophet which fall within the government framework of directives to safeguard the community during these difficult times," he said.

According to the cleric who is a renown Muslim scholar, none of the practices observed during Ramadhan will be necessarily altered by directives issued to combat the contagion wreaking havoc in the world.

"The Prophet observed Taraaweeh (the Sunnah night worship) at home with his wives, it was Khalifa Umar who made it a congregational prayer during his reign. Therefore, all we have to do is replace the sunna (tradition) of Khalifa Umar with that of the prophet and pray taraweeh at home with the rest of the family," said Sheik Aboud

Other clerics concur that this year's Ramadhan will offer faithful new opportunities which will have overall benefits on their fasting experience.

"This is a time when Muslims should be objective as there are many benefits to reap during this years Ramadhan which we have been totally missing out from in the past," says Sheikh Muhdhar Khitami SUPKEM Coast Chairman.

The cleric said that Ramadhan is the month the Quran was revealed and intensive recitation of the Quran during Ramadhan should be observed. According to the Sheikh, there is great opportunity for recitation during this stay-at-home period.

"We have the family coming together strengthening relationships as well as ensuring that the dad spends time with his children, which in the past was being neglected under the guise of loitering to while away the time as people awaited the announcement for breaking the fast in the evening," he said.

"Those who strive to recite the entire Quran during the month of Ramadhan but are distracted by the hustle and bustle of life have no excuse this time. The lockdown offers ample time," he said.

Sheikh Muhdhar observes that we are being forced by circumstances to observe the fundamentals companions of the holy Prophet willingly adhered to.

"Our Ramadhan used to be accompanied by so much unnecessary ceremony that did little to add value to our piety all of which the new regulations do not allow. We should therefore have a better fasting experience," he noted.

He says that the prophet used to break the fast with one date and a sip of water before observing Maghrib prayer which is different from the array of food Muslims prepare just for breaking the fast before the main meal.



The da'wa officer at Jamia Mosque Sheikh Muhammad Sheikh (Left) and the administrator Said Abdallah (right) hands over food ration to beneficiaries of a food distribution exercise in Eastleigh to support the less fortunate during the month of Ramadhan. At least 1,000 families from slum areas benefited from the food distribution which was done through ration stores as a measure to avoid overcrowding and ensure social distance.

"The Corona restrictions have therefore ensured that we cut down on israaf (wastage) and overspending even as those who wish to donate to the less fortunate still have many avenues to deliver on their ssadaqat," he said.

CIPK Organizing Secretary Sheikh Muhammed Khalifa says that in Islam all actions are based on their intentions, according to the famous hadith by the prophet. "Those who wish to fast will fast despite the restrictions in place," he says.

According to the Sheikh, the times for fasting, breaking the fast, obligatory practices during fasting and the intention for fasting remains the same. "Nothing changes," he insists.

"The congregational prayer that Muslims observed at the mosque can still be achieved at home with the family praying together, taraaweeh initially was observed at home by the prophet, those willing to donate to the poor can use mobile money transfer and the many avenues available to give charity. It would even be advisable to seize the opportunity and intensify ibaadat (worship)," he said.

With the Islamic holy month commencing, many have raised concern over the curfew that has seen closure of mosques at a time when muslims traditionally attend the five daily prayers in large numbers.

The special taraweeh night prayer that is observed only in the month of Ramadhan is usually the highlight of the holy month.

Sheikh Khalifa noted that Corona should serve as a wakeup call to Muslims, so that they streamline all their activities as the religion values life.

How do we make this Ramadhan which will be observed under unfamiliar regulations count?

We should thank Allah for the mercy of being able to observe our Ramadhan despite the Corona pandemic.

The fact that mosques have been shut down doesn't necessarily mean that prayers are closed. The fact that we cannot share congregational iftar (Evening meal) doesn't mean that sadaqat (Charity) during this holy month has been suspended. The fact that we are to observe the fast staying home doesn't mean that we cannot earn rewards for the month.



What we need to do is to focus our faith in Allah and stay positive believing that the negativity we may have developed regarding the disease does not hinder our motivation to reap Ramadhan benefits.

We may be gearing up for a different Ramadhan with limited opportunities amidst the hardship, there is a different aspect of the holy month with a raft of brand new benefits that we are going to experience.

Obvious blessings during this stay-at-home period is that the family will be together, bonding, helping around the house and generally sharing the experience.

"What we need to do is to focus our faith in Allah and stay positive."

The congregation for ibadat (worship) like the daily salawat (prayer) and taraweh (additional night prayer during Ramadhan) will consist of only the family unit of one household which according to Ulama (Scholars) is acceptable.

Of course time to recite and even complete the Quran will not be interfered with, and last but not least, the darsa (religious education lectures) we used to attend at the mosque will

NAJMA ISMAIL
External Affairs Editor/Liason Manager

Ramadhan SPECIAL A FAST OF MANY • PRAYERS (SALAT)

Welcome and have a blessed 2020 Ramadhan

By Alhajj Hassan Ole Naado, SUPKEM National Chairman,

The leadership of the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) congratulates the Muslim community and the rest of our beloved countrymen and women on the commencement of the holy month of Ramadhan 2020.

We reiterate that the holy Month of Ramadhan is an important pillar in the Islamic faith since it is a period that is designed to inculcate in Muslims the values of discipline, devotion and humility. We particularly recognize the importance of this season to members of the Muslim community as it is a month during which they strengthen their journey of devotion and reflection.

Let us remind ourselves of the following teachings of the Holy Quran on Ramadhan;

1. *"The month of Ramadan is the month in which the Qur'an has been sent down as guidance for mankind containing clear signs which lead to the straight road and distinguishing the truth from falsehood." (2:185)*
2. *Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may attain piety." (Holy Quran 2:183).*

Apart from the cited Quranic teachings, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, "When the month of Ramadhan starts, the gates of Heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are chained." (Imam Bukhari).

Further, the Messenger of Allah said:"...whoever fasts during Ramadhan out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven." (Imam Bukhari).

In view of the foregoing clear teachings, the Supreme Council wishes all Muslims a blessed Ramadhan 2020 and calls upon the non-Muslim brethren to accord their Muslim brothers and sisters any support they may stand in need of in order to fulfill this important article of faith.



The Director of Kenya Prisons Wyclife Ogolla receives a consignment of soap and water tanks from the vice-chairman of the Prison Rehabilitation Programme Muhammad Sharrif and the executive Officer of Ummah Foundation Musa Wekesa for distribution to correctional facilities.

However, this Ramadhan comes at a unique time when there is a deadly and devastating worldwide pandemic in the form of coronavirus of the Covid-19 strain. This pandemic has affected virtually every country in the world and Muslims have not been spared its fatal consequences.

Just the other day, we in Kenya lost an Imam from Nairobi's Eastleigh area to Covid-19. We, therefore, don't need any other lesson for us to acknowledge that coronavirus is a reality and we must take all necessary measures to protect ourselves from it.

In this regard, the Government of Kenya, like other governments the world over, has put in place measures under the Public Health Act and the Public Order Act in order to manage and contain this pandemic. The measures include punitive, but necessary, orders prohibiting public gatherings, social distancing and imposing a night curfew accompanied by orders commanding people to maintain certain hygienic standards like washing hands with soap and putting on face masks while in public places.

SUPKEM acknowledges that some of the measures to contain Covid-19 are punitive in the sense that they inhibit the ability of Muslims to perform some of their religious obligations effectively and in the manner they are expected to perform them under normal circumstances.

So far, the anti-coronavirus measures have caused the suspension of all congregational prayers, leading to the closure of all worship places including Mosques. The 2020 Hajj to Mecca is in limbo given the advisory issued by the Saudi government on grounds that international travel is suspended and there is an anti-coronavirus lockdown in Saudi Arabia itself.

This means that the 2020 Ramadhan will not be business as usual for Muslims and all other people who are affected by it. In fact, the highest religious body in Saudi Arabia has issued a communiqué instructing Muslims to perform Ramadhan and Idd prayers at home during pendency of the coronavirus pandemic.

Since extraordinary situations call for extraordinary measures, we Muslims have no choice but to abide by the government regulations appertaining to Covid-19. In fact, there are plenty of lessons in Islamic teachings about such situations, so the Muslim community need not feel so much aggrieved.

Islamic rules over epidemics to protect people from death and sickness go back to the very early stages of the religion. On many occasions, the Prophet Muhammad advised his companions to value their lives as the



Dr Asma Awadh from the Kenya Association of Muslim Medical Practitioners (KAMMP) facilitates a training exercise for volunteers on the proper use of Personal Protective Equipments at Jamia Mosque, Nairobi. The training programme is part of the National Muslim Covid-19 Response Committee initiatives to contain the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

"Above all, we as Muslims are enjoined to obey and respect authority. The Holy Quran says; "O ye who believe! Obey Allah, and obey the Messenger, and those charged with authority among you." (4:59)."

utmost importance over death in his numerous sayings (hadiths), urging people to stay away from places where there were epidemics.

"When you hear that a plague is in a land, do not go to it and if it occurs in a land that you are already in, then do not leave it, fleeing from it," the Holy Prophet famously said.

This saying exactly refers to the principle of modern quarantine. What is being currently practiced concerning the coronavirus outbreak is the same principle as the advice of the Prophet. Hence, as the Covid-19 outbreak continues to ravage tens of thousands of people across the world, the Holy Prophet's advice on how to respond to a pandemic offers a motivation to people to stay put in their homes and protect themselves from the deadly virus.

During the rule of Caliph Umar, who was one of the four righteous caliphs after the Prophet, Muslims also practiced what the Prophet urged them to do in the time of an epidemic.

When one of the Muslim armies approached a location in current Syria where there was a plague back in the mid 7th Century, the commanders fell into confusion over what to do. Caliph Umar urged the army commander to retreat from the expedition in the face of the plague.

But the order did not appear to be fulfilled wholeheartedly. Then, he personally moved to a location to meet with commanders to discuss the situation. When the disagreement continued, he consulted with a diverse range of advisers to reach an ultimate decision. Finally, he settled on the decision to stay away from the plague.

"I am returning in the morning, so return as well," Umar said, declaring his decision to retreat. Abu Ubaydah ibn Jarrah, the commander of the army and one of Umar's best friends, who passed away later from the plague, expressed his dislike of Umar's decision, asking: "Are you fleeing from the decree of Allah?"

"Yes, we are fleeing from the decree of Allah to the decree of Allah," Umar famously replied.

Above all, we as Muslims are enjoined to obey and respect authority. The Holy Quran says; "O ye who believe! Obey Allah, and obey the Messenger, and those charged with authority among you." (4:59).

Islamic scholars in their interpretations of this verse agree that the term of "Uli-al Amr" has general application and is not specific. According to mainstream interpretations, the meaning of Uli al-Amr includes incorporates various aspects of leadership that should be obeyed including military commanders, political leaders and the authority of the state in general.

The Supreme Council, therefore, calls upon the Muslim community to summon its energy, knowledge and wisdom to perform their religious duties during Ramadhan while upholding fidelity to the government measures to combat Covid-19.

We also pray that the Almighty lessens the burden of Covid-19 on humanity and enable us to resume our normal lives.

Ramadhan SPECIAL — A FAST OF MANY • PRAYERS (SALAT)

BENEFITS OF THE MONTH OF RAMADHAN

By SUWAGA KHALFAN AMIN

Ramadhan is a month of dignity, spirituality, awareness, giving, solidarity, justice, love and mercy. A month that Muslims anxiously await and prepare for and one of great nourishment for it really is a holy one.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

"Whoever establishes prayers during the nights of Ramadhan faithfully out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not for showing off), all his past sins will be forgiven."

Ramadhan comes with a number of good things to benefit mankind, among them: The Special Night (Laylatul Qadr)

"Amongst the nights of Ramadhan, there is one special night of Power (Qadr), which is highlighted in surah Al-Qadr, saying it has the significance of being better than a thousand months." (Qur'an 97:3)

This was the night when Qur'an was revealed to mankind. The reward of acts of worship done in this single night is more than the reward of around 83 years (1000 months) of worship.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) urged Muslims to seek this night in the odd nights of the last ten nights of Ramadan. Since then Muslims believe the Night of Qadr comes with blessings and mercy of God in abundance, sins are forgiven, and that supplication during this night is like an arrow that never misses its target.

GIVING IN CHARITY

The Prophet (PBUH) said, "He who gives food to a fasting person to break his fast, he will receive the same reward as him, without nothing being reduced from the fasting person's

reward." (Tirmidhi)

Inspired by this Hadith, Muslims compete with one another in charitable activities during Ramadhan to win Allah's pleasure and reward. Nearly no Muslim sleeps hungry during this holy month, which shows the magnitude of how charitable people seek to become.

PATIENCE

Another important quality one develops during Ramadhan through fasting is patience. Allah has mentioned the word sabr or patience more than 70 times in the Qur'an and commanded patience in more than 16 ways in the holy book.

When one fasts from dawn to dusk, giving up food and drink and marital sexual relations for several hours, he/she learns restraint and patience.

CLOSENESS TO ALLAH

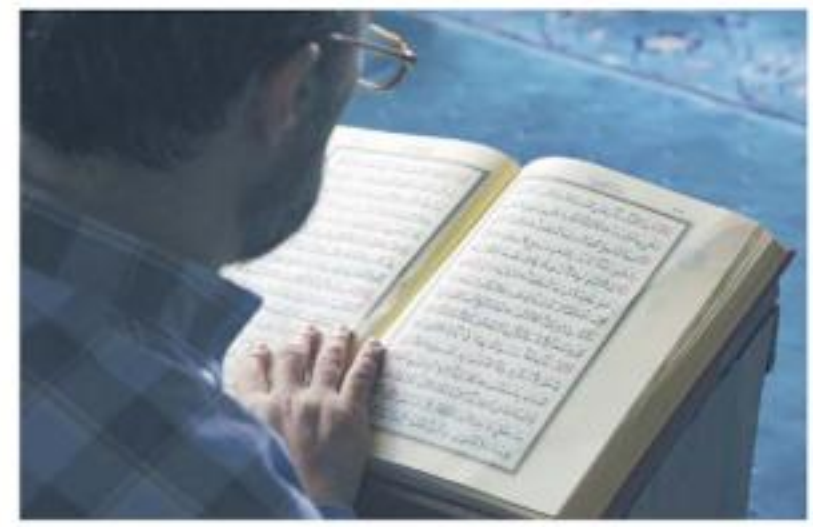
Allah says in the holy Qur'an:

"O you who believe, fasting has been prescribed upon those before you so that you may attain Taqwa or piety."(2: 183)

During this period, Muslims engage in prayers seeking the forgiveness of Allah, recite and reflect on the Qur'an during night and day and perform night prayers.

AVOIDING SINS

The prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Whoever does not abandon falsehood in word and action, then Allah has no need that he should leave his food and drink." (Bukhari)



Man reading the Holy Quran. [FILE PHOTO]

This Hadith reminds Muslims that they should purify their manners. The Qur'an has stated that the Prophet Muhammad "was sent to perfect good manners.". Remember Ramadhan is a month for Muslims to change their lives for the better, leaving behind un-Islamic and immoral practices, to lead an exemplary life.

With all this in mind, may Allah (S.W) make it easy for us all to observe all the righteous deeds during and even after this period. Ameen.

A Ramadhan of substance over symbols a COVID-19 blessing in disguise

By Umi Wabomba

What images come to mind when you think of the month of Ramadhan? Well, it depends on whether you are a Muslim or not.

For a non-Muslim, at the mention of the word Ramadhan, you may start salivating as your nose imagines aromas of sweet delicacies. You get to sample some as you buy a few to take home. You wonder why you can't have these mouth-watering delicacies throughout the year but you quickly banish that thought and choose to just be grateful at the moment. You can say goodbye to your drab Ugali and Sukuma Wiki for the rest of the month!

However for a Muslim, during the month of Ramadhan, the delicious food is a given. You will see many Muslims with purchasing power stocking up for the month. The irony is the shopping could be double or triple the usual monthly shopping. If it's a month of fasting, shouldn't the shopping be half of the normal monthly budget if not less?

And therein lies the fallacy of symbols of Ramadhan that have overtaken the substance of it for many years.

For many Muslims, the month of Ramadhan has been synonymous with extravagance. There have been lavish *Iftar* (breaking the Fast) dinners that are a spectacle of competition between family and friends. There have been cases of women spending a whole day in the kitchen to create crazy recipes to show off to their guests during *Iftar* time. Some may even miss praying the five obligatory prayers while at it.

Muslims have forgotten the substance of Ramadhan and the COVID -19 and its health and safety guidelines have in an interesting way forced Muslims to rethink the real purpose of the month of Ramadhan.

It is a month to sacrifice and starve the bodily pleasures so as to feed the spiritual needs of the human soul. It is a time to grow closer to the Almighty with more prayers, seeking His mercy, forgiveness, and favor.

Measures preventing the spread of COVID-19 have therefore forced Muslims to remember the true spirit and substance of Ramadhan that was practiced by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the early followers of Islam. They did not have the luxuries of the technology that Muslims enjoy today with opportunity to gather till late in the month of Ramadhan.

The early followers of Islam ate the bare minimum and stayed in their houses to seek the forgiveness of the Almighty. They didn't meet to break the fast together or to show off their sumptuous meals. They were more concerned about purifying their intentions to fast only to seek the pleasure of the Almighty.

COVID - 19 has its blessings despite its devastating results of death and isolation. For Muslims it is an opportunity to experience a Ramadhan that is free of pretense or show off. It is a Ramadhan that is between the created and the creator within the confines of one's home. END

Umi Wabomba is a Communications Consultant

Keeping belief during hard times

BY MRS NASSIR

During hardship and calamities, it is natural to get swept away by the afflictions of the moment. During such trials of faith, unless we are careful, Satan can inflict fear and inspire doubt into our hearts and minds.

Our faith may as a result become hesitant resulting in the reduction of our conviction.

All in all, we may find ourselves lost, helpless, and stalled finding it difficult to gather ourselves and move forward.

For such situations specifically and others in general, Islam teaches us to stay in control by hanging on to the Mercy and Grace of Allah.

We pray that Allah keeps us safe from the challenges and trials of life, but as Muslims we should know and understand Quran's message and the Prophet's guidance for handling tough moments in life. The following summarizes some of the key guidance related to this matter.

Do not feel helpless

Even when all doors appear to have been closed, as true believers we should never let feelings of despair affect our faith.

It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak believer, although both are good. Strive to do that which will benefit you and seek the help of Allah, and do not feel helpless. If anything befalls you, do not say 'If only I had done (such and such), the such and such would have happened,' rather say: 'Allah has decreed and what He wills He does,' for 'if only' opens the door to the work of the shaitan." (Muslim, 2664).

"Islam teaches us to stay in control by hanging on to the Mercy and Grace of Allah."

Ibn al-Qayyim (may Allah have mercy on him) said: This Hadith includes several important principles of faith, including the following: "Do not feel helpless": Feeling helpless is contrary to striving for that which will benefit him, and it is contrary to seeking the help of Allah.

Revive your faith

As mentioned in the Hadith above, a strong faith can help us to hold our heads high. When faith seems to be dwindling, we should get back to Quran and remind ourselves that only Allah can let us out of our ordeal and problems. You must, therefore, keep that faith and not let Satan instill thoughts that could weaken your faith.

Ramadhan SPECIAL — A FAST OF MANY • PRAYERS (SALAT)

Muslims rally to support govt efforts to tame COVID-19

BY ABU AYMAN

The Islamic community has stepped forward in support of the government's efforts in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The initiative under the auspices of the National Muslim Covid-19 Response Committee has brought together Muslim Organizations and other stakeholders have embarked on various programmes aimed at containing the spread of the deadly disease.

The committee is chaired by Umma University vice chair Prof. Muhammad Karama and has members who include the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM), various mosques and organizations such as Kenya Association of Muslims Medical Practitioners (KAMMP), Muslim Counsellors and Psychiatrist Associations among others.

At the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, among the pressing concerns for the community was how to handle bodies of victims of Corona Virus.

Islamic tenets dictate that the deceased have to undergo certain rituals that include washing and shrouding which in the Covid-19 situation makes a very risky affair.

This being one among the many reasons that brought Muslims together to deliberate on how to handle the bodies in a manner which will be within the tenets of Islam while at the same time ensuring the safety of those handling the bodies.

Through the deliberations, the committee expanded its scope of work and formed committees which went beyond body handling and included janazah (burial), welfare and resource mobilization, home based care, and psycho-socio support.

"Islam has specific rituals for the deceased which include the ritual washing (ghusl) and shrouding before burial. This no doubt put those handling the body in a precarious situation and we had to sit and deliberate on the best way to handle the matter in line with Islamic teachings," said Prof. Karama.

Through consultations with Islamic scholars, the committee developed guidelines for the handling of deceased Muslims who pass away as a result of Covid-19.

In normal circumstances, the body of the deceased is washed and shrouded after which a communal prayer is said over the deceased before burial.

Guidelines developed by the Committee have altered some of these procedures recommending for the bodies to be buried without being subjected to ghusl procedures.

He stressed that Islam places great emphasis on the protection of life affirming that the measures taken are aimed at preventing the spread of the disease.

In accordance with protocols from the Ministry of Health, the bodies will be wrapped in sheets and placed in body bags before being transported to the burial areas.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) based in the United States advised that the body of someone who has died from the coronavirus should not be touched, due to concerns about contracting and spreading the disease.

Over one hundred volunteers in various parts of the country have been trained in the handling of the dead and the proper use of Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) which are essential for those who come in close contacts with Covid-19 positive cases.

The volunteers will provide assistance in the handling of the dead who succumb in hospitals. For home cases, the bereaved families are advised to report the death through the toll free number 719 for government assessment before the team engages in the burial procedures.

In addition, a team of psychiatrists and psychologists have been put in place to provide counseling and psycho-social support to the families of the deceased.

Being a working muslim mum

BY MEHNAZ SARWAR



I am a 34-year-old mother of 4, I was born and bred in Nairobi Kenya, lived abroad for a few years and decided to move back and settle in Nairobi.

My kids range from 7years to 3 months old, I homeschool 3 of them while running 3 businesses which include a catering business, a taxi business and an online marketing business.

Coming from an Islamic background, the usual misconception is that women should be locked up in their homes and not work, but being a practicing Muslim myself, Islam gives me the freedom to work as long as the environment is conducive to my faith and doesn't involve anything against the faith.

I run all my businesses with full support of my husband, he has always encouraged me to follow my dreams and he is my backbone, he will cook, look after the kids when I have meetings etc. which is something very rare in this day in age but he chooses to follow the religion as opposed to culture.

When we look back in time we find the wife of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) , Khadijah was an excellent mother, wife and entrepreneur. I take my inspiration from her and other great women of the past like the mothers of Musa, Imam Bukhari and Imam Malik to mention a few.

Our Islamic history is filled with stories of strong women, the women were fully immersed in the society, they never took a back seat. From Aisha who was a respected scholar to Khawlah who was a fearless warrior, our Islamic history has never talked about subjugation of women , it came to liberate us from the shackles of society, to free us from the binds of our desires and to raise us above just being an object of lust.

I hope that through my words I can encourage more women to pursue their goals. To Muslim women, one advice would be to never compromise your religion or your hijab for the sake of a job, I am a niqaabi, (a piece of cloth worn by some Muslim women to cover the whole face except the eyes) I have been to high level meetings being fully covered and have never compromised my covering.

Bear in mind that we are provided for by our creator and we should not compromise when our sustenance is already guaranteed.

There will be many people through out your life who will tell you that you can't do it, but never listen to the naysayers.

Women are strong, we should be examples to our daughters, we should be strong so we can raise strong children, we are so much more than society expects!

And most of all trust in Allah as he is the provider.

Hats of to you working mamas out there, it's not easy juggling work, kids, life but we do it ever day. Know that you are amazing, the fact that you are trying your best to work hard and benefit your family is truly remarkable and I hope and pray that you have the strength to carry on and raise and nurture the same ambition and drive in the next generation.

Re- connecting with The Quran

By Hafswah Khamis (shiblah mazrui)

Ramadhan is the month in which the Holy Qur'an was revealed and in this month, Muslims strive to renew their relationship with the Holy Book and attempt to build a stronger connection with their Lord.

To commemorate this special month, they fast everyday from dawn to dusk. It being the month of the Qur'an, many enter this month with the hope that they will connect more with the Qur'an but alas, most are filled with remorse at the end of the month and hope that the coming year's Ramadhan will be better.

But the cycle never ends. Here are some few things that might break this vicious cycle and make your connection with the Qur'an this Ramadhan more productive.

1. PURIFY YOUR INTENTIONS

The Prophet (peace be upon him) taught us that our actions will be rewarded according to our intentions. It is uplifting to know that when we intend to do something great but we are unable to do it as well as we envisioned, we might still get full rewards as if we already did the great thing.

But it can be scary as well because our deeds might amount to nothing due to our misplaced intentions. In this age of social media, most people are used to showing off their good deeds. If we are not careful enough to do our deeds solely for the sake of pleasing Allah, it could be that all that we get from these deeds is other people's approval instead of Allah's.

2. BLOCK OUT TIME

It is important to set a specific time of the day when you intend to recite the Qur'an. If you merely say you will read the Qur'an when you get free time, you are likely to not get that free time.

Blocking out time is also helpful when you let your family members know that you will not be available for any other business during that time so that they don't distract you and you can focus on the task at hand.

3. READ THE TRANSLATION

The Quran being more important than any other book you will come across as a Muslim.

It doesn't mean that you should postpone getting an understanding of the Qur'an until you are able to master the Arabic language

4. REFLECT ON THE VERSES

In various places in the Qur'an, Allah admonishes us for not pondering over His verses and His signs. I assume you have ever read a set book in school and had to analyze the tiny nuances that made the book interesting.

If you were able to reflect on the set book, Qur'an is more worthy of your time. With the Qur'an, you could ask yourself important questions that might help you in your reflection process. For instance: *in what context or situation was this particular verse revealed? What names of Allah are mentioned at the end of the verse and how are they related to what is being said? How does the message in this verse relate to my current situation?*

In doing so, you are more likely to develop a deeper, personal connection with this Book. When you recite the verses you reflected upon in your prayers you are probably going to have a better focus and more rewarding spiritual experience.

5. QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

It is common practice for Muslims to aim to finish reciting the Qur'an from cover to cover during this month. And it sometimes becomes a sort of competition as people rush over the pages heedlessly in order to finish before their peers.

I don't mean to belittle the act of reciting the whole Qur'an. All I'm asking is for us to pay more attention to what we are reciting.

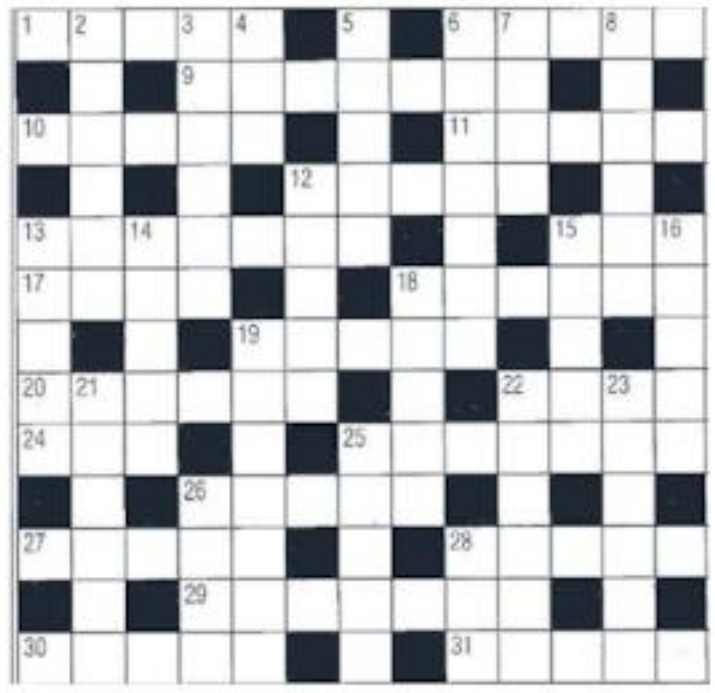
It might take us more time to read the translation and reflect on the verses and we might end up covering less ground. But isn't this better than rote recitation where the words enter our ears but don't permeate out hearts?

May Allah make us sincere in our deeds and may He let us discover the secrets of the Qur'an. May this Ramadhan be your best yet!

EASY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Took an exam again (5)
6 Bear (5)
9 Pirate (7)
10 Play guitar (5)
11 Poor (5)
12 Heather (5)
13 Sharply (7)
15 Beer (3)
17 Aquatic bird (4)
18 Restraint (6)
19 Viper (5)
20 Secret (6)
22 Healthy (4)
24 Floor covering (3)
25 Lubricated (7)
26 Yields (5)
27 Detest (5)
28 Hidden store (5)
29 Runaway (7)
30 War-horse (5)
31 Wear away (5)

DOWN
2 Landed property (6)
3 Perception (6)
4 Male cat (3)
5 Money-lending (5)
6 Squeezer (7)
7 Region (4)
8 Easy task, informally (6)
12 Evade (5)
13 Vapour (5)
14 Upright (5)
15 Book of maps (5)
16 Strayed (5)
18 . Dreads (5)
19 Irritated (7)
21 Long-eared mammal (6)
22 Horse's headgear (6)
23 Under contract (6)
25 Type (5)
26 Centre (4)
28 Regard (3)



Thursday's solution

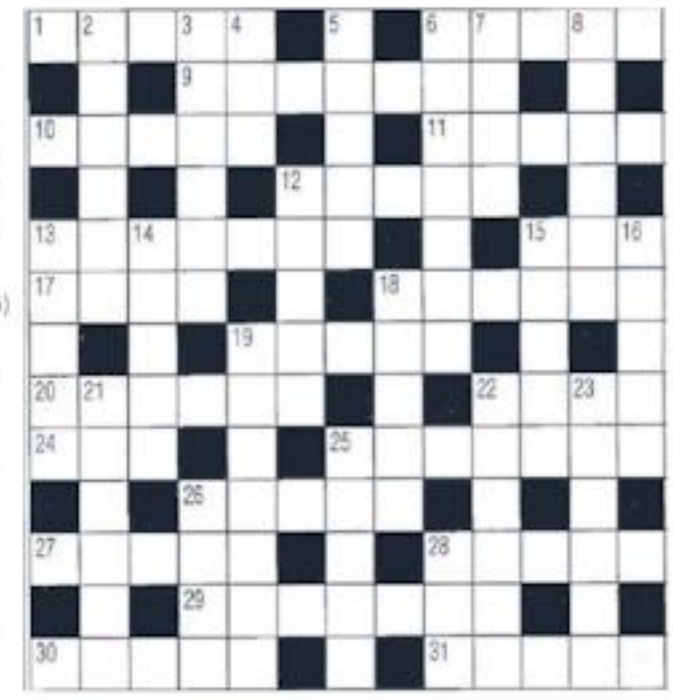
ACROSS: 4, Negate 7, Ambrosia 8, Senora 10, Lords 13, Hang 14, Sate 15, Bolt 16, Gem 17, Trio 19, Eros 21, Meandered 23, Sari 24, Lass 26, Tap 27, Slur 29, Iris 32, Siam 33, Snare 34, Botany 35, Estrange 36, Orator.

DOWN: 1, Tails 2, Abort 3, Rots 4, Nasal 5, Gong 6, Tories 9, Enters 11, Oar 12, Deter 13, Hoodlum 15, Bin 16, God 18, Raisin 20, Resin 21, Map 22, Ear 23, Savour 25, Fir 28, Layer 30, Rainy 31, Sewer 32, Salt 33, Surf.

CRYPTIC PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 John, perhaps, born to drift out West (5)
6 Like Odin, he rebuilt a town (5)
9 Some chump suffered when brought low! (7)
10 Cash in hand at the angling shop? (5)
11 Decorate sailors with some fuss (5)
12 People who put Leslie out of the race (5)
13 Though pretty, she possibly bored us (7)
15 Scuba-diving youngster? (3)
17 Fluids swirling in the sink (4)
18 Plead with a person in a case of dismissal (6)
19 One singer in three? (5)
20 Associated a boy with a ballad (6)
22 It's eaten at times (4)
24 Left the Italian girl (3)
25 Grenade explosion to drive one mad! (7)
26 Complaint of being noisy all the time? (5)
27 Grace Darling's tree (5)
28 Protection for a pub in the outskirts of Paisley (5)
29 Managed to go ahead in the city (7)
30 My little boy's name (5)
31 Usually colourful weird tale by a party leader (5)

DOWN
2 This implies eager anticipation of something to wear (4,2)
3 Points out healthy animals (6)
4 Head teachers' union? (3)
5 Ran away to seal (5)
6 Is it on the windy side? (7)
7 They're not even against you! (4)
8 Fighter plane's weapon? (6)
12 Invited to a bit of lunch with a leftist (5)
13 Figure a shifty liar's about to be a competitor (5)
14 Jolly Roger's just a bonehead! (5)
15 Cold cooker for witches! (5)
16 Girl flier going round the corner on the left (5)
18 Nice place to be with a bird? (5)
19 Where Iranian capitalists can possibly lose heart (7)
21 It's probable such lads have been on TV (6)
22 Is he of service to a miner maybe? (6)
23 Business information absorbed by a woman (6)
25 Condescend to struggle with a bit of weeding (5)
26 Game to go a long way for love (4)
28 Music to drink in? (3)



Thursday's solution

ACROSS: ACROSS: 4, Mighty 7, Manitoba 8, Gilded 10, Clear 13, Bond 14, Kiln
15, Mugs 16, Jim 17, Graz 19, Icon 21, Freeze-dry 23, Guy's 24, Area 26, Ken 27, Tire 29, Trap 32, Tend 33, Se-l-ne 34, De-Cl-de 35, Pit-Cher-s 36, Lame-NT.

DOWN: 1, S-M-ack 2, Angel 3, Stir 4, MA-Gog 5, Gold 6, Tiepin 9, Inside 11, Lid 12, Angry 13, Buzz-ard 15, Mae 16, Joy 18, Re-St.-ed 20, Crate 21, F-un 22, Ere 23, Gene-Va 25, Nan 28, In-e-pt 30, Rivet 31, P-ease 32, Time 33, Sock.

CHESS PUZZLE

Easy Puzzle

White mates in 2 moves.



Intermediate Puzzle

Black mates in 3 moves.



Thursday's solution

Easy puzzle:
1.f4 Kg4 2.Rg6#

Intermediate puzzle:
1....Qxg1+ 2.Nxg1 Bh4+ 3.Kd1 Re1#

SOLVIT

C	C	F	B	18
A	G	E	D	22
B	D	H	E	25
H	A	G	J	20
20	24	18	23	

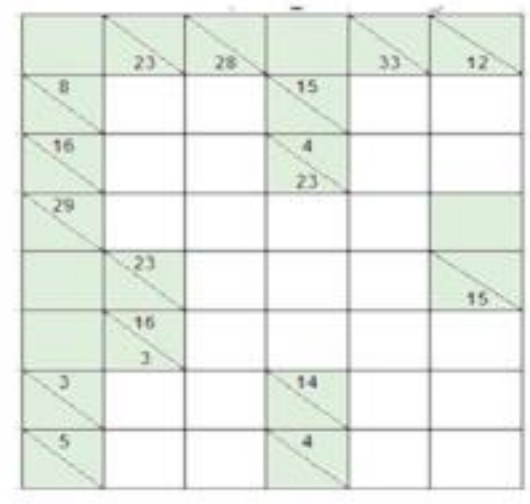
Difficulty

The letters have a distinct value between 1 to 9. The totals vertically and horizontally have been given. Solve all the values.

Thursday's Solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J
1	4	2	7	9	3	5	8	6

KAKURO



Thursday's Solution



CODEWORD

CLUE
Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26. Crack the code and solve the crossword. Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.



Wednesday's Solution

14 I	15 L	16 E	17 Q	18 B	19 O	20 G	21 R	22 V	23 X	24 K	25 A	26 U
1 F	2 N	3 H	4 J	5 P	6 M	7 T	8 D	9 S	10 W	11 C	12 Y	13 Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

SUDOKU

				7	2			
1		7	6	9			4	8
	8					3	7	
9		5	4					3
8			3	1		6		
6			7			5	2	
		8			4			9
		2			8		1	5
4		3	1					2

Thursday's Solution

3	8	9	2	5	6	1	7	4
1	4	2	7	9	8	6	3	5
6	5	7	4	1	3	2	8	9
5	3	6	8	7	4	9	1	2
9	7	8	1	6	2	5	4	3
4	2	1	9	3	5	8	6	7
8	9	3	5	4	1	7	2	6
7	1	4	6	2	9	3	5	8
2	6	5	3	8	7	4	9	1

HOROSCOPE

Virgo – Aug 23 - Sep 22
You can be extremely productive today, especially if you ask others for help. Being willing to delegate tasks will allow you to make good use of your talent. You've always been excellent at attending to small details. Keeping this in mind, it's best for you to review paperwork and double-check facts while others attend to the big picture.

Libra – Sep 23 - Oct 22
Love is going to find you, whether you want it or not. Someone with your charm, wit, and intelligence can't help but draw admirers even when you're holed up at home. If you're single, you could meet someone special while playing an online trivia game, participating in a book club chat.

Scorpio – Oct 23 - Nov 21
Going through keepsakes helps you feel connected to the past. Although you've come a long ways since the old days, you're still the same person in many ways. Take this opportunity to resume a hobby that used to fill you with wonder and excitement as a child. It could be anything from playing a sport to making art to communing with nature.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You could zip through chores like a hot knife through butter today. Multitasking is your specialty. Instead of being content to rest on your laurels, look for ways to be of assistance to overwhelmed relatives, friends, and neighbors. This helpful attitude makes you a superstar. This evening, prepare some comfort food for yourself, put your feet up, and rest.

Capricorn – Dec 22-Jan 19
A sensual person like you needs physical contact to be content. Put work on the back burner today and abandon yourself to the softer side of life. Making time for an intimate encounter with someone special will lift your spirits. Or it may be a bit of self-care that's needed now to generate good feelings.

Aquarius – Jan 20-Feb 18
Your charisma is powerful today and you'd be wise to use it to promote your personal agenda. Your communication skills are strong now so if there's something you've wanted to write or say aloud, now is a good time to do it. Whatever your message, people will appreciate your original outlook.

Pisces – Feb 19 - Mar 20
If the salesperson within you could surface and you could do really well. You might also have useful advice for relatives who're trying to sell something. Your love life could take an interesting twist. You could take someone by surprise with your actions and remind them that taking you for granted isn't wise!

Aries – Mar 21 - Apr 19
Even for an independent spirit like you, working as part of a team can be very beneficial now. People appreciate your willingness to take risks and challenge assumptions. At times, they'll try reining you in, but that's only because they want to get the timing of a project just right. Their feedback today can help you turn something good into something great.

Taurus – Apr 20 - May 20
Behind your proper exterior beats the heart of a rebel. People would be very surprised to realize how offbeat you really are. Work is your favorite outlet for creative ideas and colleagues treat them with great respect. That's because you not only propose new ways of doing things, but you have practical methods of implementing these concepts.

Gemini – May 21 - Jun 21
Sharing your expert knowledge today could lead to some lucrative opportunities. You've always been good at devising time-saving methods and creating efficient systems and there's no reason you can't make a good living off this talent. Serving as a teacher or tutor will satisfy your need for constant intellectual stimulation.

Cancer – Jun 22-Jul 22
Emotions are running strong today. Don't bother suppressing your feelings behind an impassive mask. By wearing your heart on your sleeve, you'll lay the groundwork for an intimate relationship that is very rewarding. Giving your heart to someone who loves you unconditionally will be empowering. By making a few critical moves, your life could look much different than it does now.

Leo – Jul 23 - Aug 22
Making your best friend or romantic partner the center of attention is a smart move. Usually the spotlight is firmly fixed on you, but try shifting the focus to this other person, you'll give them a chance to thrive. Although people may have accused you of being egotistical, that's not entirely true. Today is no exception to that rule.

Twittascope.com

WHAT'S ON KTN

ktn NEWS

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



ktn

5:00 Am	Command Your Morning
6:00 Am	Joseph Prince
6:30 Am	Wild Planet
7:00 Am	Life And Style
9:00 Am	Music Interlude Kenya Old Skul
9:30 Am	Afriscreen
11:00 Am	A Love to Last
12:00Pm	Property Show Rpt
1:00 Pm	Newsdesk
1:30 Pm	Afriscreen
3:00Pm	Music interlude Kenya Old Skul
3:30Pm	Wild Planet
4:00 Pm	Kubash School Life Live
6:00 Pm	The Stepdaughters
7:00 Pm	Dira Ya Wiki
7:30 Pm	Behind the Music Local
8:00 Pm	JESUS
9:00 Pm	Friday Briefing
10:00 Pm	Hollywood Movie
1:00 Am	Music Interlude -Soul
1:30 Am	CNN

Radio Maisha
Tuko mbele pamoja!

04:00	Safari na Anthony Ndiema
06:00	Maisha Asubuhi with Billy na Tricky
10:00	Staarabika na Ann Njogu Babu and Gathoni
12:00	Konnect na Mwende and Clemo
03:00	Maisha Jioni na Emmanuel Mwashumbe and Shuga Boy
07:00	Papa Nick na Nick Odhiambo
10:00	Maji Maku u na Babu Wakasiaka and Mbaruk
12:00	Maisha Xtra na Hassan Umar

Vybez
Nairobi 104.5 Mombasa 98.7 Nyeri 98.8 Meru 107.7 Eldoret 107.5

06.00AM – 10.00AM	Morning Vybez
10.00AM – 03.00PM	Riddim Culture
03.00PM – 07.00PM	Adrenaline
07.00PM – 10.00PM	Cease N Sekkie
10.00PM – 5:00AM	Night Patrol
05.00AM-06.00AM	Iriz

Spice fm
Nairobi 94.4 Mombasa 87.9 Malindi 97.7 Nyeri 90.9 Nakuru 96.0 Kisumu 102.5

06.00AM – 10.00AM	The Situation Room
10.00AM – 03.00PM	Spice Soul
03.00PM – 07.00PM	Spice Drive with Monique
07.00PM – 10.00PM	The Adults in the Room
10.00PM – MIDNIGHT	Mellow Spice
MIDNIGHT – 04.00AM	Soul Night
04.00AM-06.00AM	Spice Worship

btv

5:00 Am	Tendereza Music Mix
6:00 Am	BBC Dira Ya Dunia
6:30 Am	Wild Planet
7:00 Am	Janida
8:00 Am	Makezi Bora
9:00 Am	Mziki Mash-up
12:00 Pm	Wasanii
12:30 Pm	Hustle Yangu
1:00 Pm	Bizna
1:05 Pm	Zinga La Spoti
2:00 Pm	Bongo Flava
3:00 Pm	Talanta Mtaani
4:00 Pm	Wild Planet
4:30 Pm	Red Carpet
5:00 Pm	Hip Hop
6:30 Pm	Baba Yao
7:00 Pm	KTN Leo Live
7:30 Pm	Movie
10:00 Pm	K-Rave Live
12:00 Am	Zinga La Spoti
1:00 Am	Bongo Flava
3:00 Am	Tendereza - Regional Worship

ktn FARMERS tv

6:00 Am	Agri-News
6:30 Am	Agri Expo
7:30 Am	Corn Warriors
8:00 Am	Successful Farming
8:30 Am	A Farmer's Life for Me
9:30 Am	Mega Farm
10:30 Am	Horticulture
11:00 Am	Access Agriculture Documentary
11:30 Am	Get it Right
12:00 Pm	Agri-News
12:30 Pm	Sheep and Goat Farming
1:00 Pm	Beef Farming
1:30 Pm	Smart Pigs
2:00 Pm	Agripulse
2:30 Pm	Animore
3:00 Pm	Inside the Factory
4:00 Pm	Horticulture
4:30 Pm	Wild Planet
5:00 Pm	A Farmer's Life for Me
6:00 Pm	Foods of Kenya
7:00 Pm	Corn Warriors
7:30 Pm	Agri-News
8:00 Pm	Successful Farming
8:30 Pm	This Week in Agriculture
9:30 Pm	Kilimo Bora
10:00 Pm	Get It Right
10:30 Pm	Agri-News Rpt
11:00 Pm	Dunia ni Leo
11:30 Pm	Music Interlude
12:00 Am	Al Jazeera

NTV

5:00am	Password Plus
6:00am	AM Live
8:00am	Generation 3
9:00am	Zafari
10:00am	Ubongo Kids
10:30am	Akiliand Me
11:00am	Inter Switch GPAK
11:30am	Teen Music Mix
12:00pm	NTV Sasa
1:00pm	NTV at 1
1:30pm	Pieces Of Us-Rpt
2:00pm	Memories Of Love
3:00pm	Generation 3
4:00pm	NTV Akasiri
4:30pm	Generation 3 Jams
5:00pm	The Heist
6:00pm	The Blood Sisters
7:00pm	NTV Jioni
7:30pm	The Wicked Edition
8.00pm	#the Trend
9:00pm	NTV Weekend Edition
10:00pm	#the Trend
12:00 am	CNN

K24

5.00am	Inuka
6.00am	K24 This Morning
9.00am	Daily Brief
12.30pm	Inside Business
13.00pm	News Cut
13.30pm	Sports Hub
14:00pm	Bongo Movie
15.00pm	Sweetest Love
16.00pm	K24 Mashinani
16.30pm	Jus Kidz
17.00pm	Beatbox
18.00pm	Hollywood Movie
19.00pm	K24 Saa Moja
19.30pm	Jane And Abel
20.00pm	A Carnival Affair
21.00pm	K24 Evening Edition

Ebru

5:00	Vuka Praiz
6:30	Fitness Time
7:00	New Day
9:00	Hits
10:00	My Doctor
11:00	Naija Cinema
13:00	Up To Date @1
13:00	Business Insight
14:00	Hits
15:30	Cartoons
16:30	Fitness Time
17:00	The Edge
18:00	Let's Talk
19:00	Mwanga wa Ebru
19:30	Descendants of the Sun
20:00	Only Love
20:30	Street Quiz
21:00	Prime Time News
22:00	Let's Talk

BONGOMAN PLAYS BIG LEAGUE by Kham

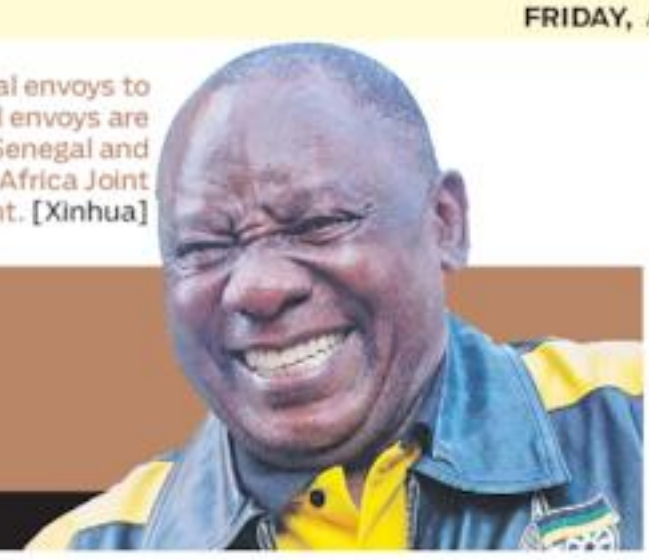


QUOTE OF THE DAY

I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.

Albert Einstein

Financing. African Union Chairman Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed four special envoys to solicit financial support for Africa to help it contain Covid-19. The four special envoys are Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria, Donald Kaberuka of Rwanda, Tidjane Thiam of Senegal and Trevor Manuel of South Africa. The funds mobilised by the envoys will support the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for Covid-19 Outbreak, said the South African president. [Xinhua]



On Twitter:
@cnni

From Monday next week, wearing a face mask on public transportation and in stores will be mandatory in all 16 states in Germany.



World

SPORTS: WHY OBUNGA REMAINS FOCUSED ON WINNING TITLES . P. 38

In Brief

Crisis. Mideast, Africa fail to protect airlines

■ Middle Eastern and African governments are failing to take the action required to protect their airlines from the economic crisis caused by the new coronavirus pandemic, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said yesterday. Several states have stepped in to help their airlines that have seen travel demand decimated by the global outbreak, such as the United States, Singapore and Australia. **[Reuters]**

Madagascar. Leader 'praised for herbal cure'



■ Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina *(pictured)* says he has been congratulated by his counterpart in the Democratic Republic of Congo for launching a herbal coronavirus "cure". The World Health Organisation (WHO) says there is no proof of a cure for Covid-19 and the country's national medical academy (Anamem) has also cast doubt on the efficacy of Mr Rajoelina's touted prevention and remedy. But Rajoelina said he and Félix Tshisekedi had chatted via video conference about the Malagasy plant-based tonic, 'Covid-Organics'. **[BBC]**

Nigeria. Governors to ban interstate travel

■ The governors of Nigeria's 36 states have agreed to ban interstate movement for two weeks in an effort to curb the spread of the new coronavirus, a joint statement said. Lagos and Ogun states, as well as capital Abuja, are already under federally imposed lockdowns, while various states have instigated their own containment measures. Nigeria had 873 Covid-19 cases as of yesterday. **[Reuters]**

Pandemic. About 16,000 people remain hospitalised across New York

Moving past 'invisible enemy', Trump nudges nation to reopen

White House officials believe they've moved from crisis mode to sustained mitigation and management.

By AP
Washington

For weeks, the Trump administration played up the dangers of the coronavirus as it sought to convince Americans to disrupt their lives and stay home.

Now, as President Donald Trump aims for a swift nationwide reopening, he faces a new challenge: convincing people it's safe to come out and resume their normal lives.

It's a defining question for a cloistered nation — and a political imperative for Mr Trump, whose re-election likely rides on the pace of an economic rebound.

Can the country move beyond a crippling fear of the virus and return to some modified version of its old routines, doing what's possible to mitigate the risk of Covid-19, but acknowledging it may be a fact of life for years to come?

"We need to create the kind of confidence in America that makes it so that everybody goes back to work," said Kevin Hassett, a White House adviser and former chair of the Council of Economic Advisers.

"And that confidence is going to require testing and confidence that your workplace is a healthy place, but also confidence in the economy."

At the White House, officials believe they've entered a new chapter of the pandemic response, moving from crisis mode to sustained mitigation and management.

It began last Thursday with the release of guidelines to governors for how to safely reopen their states. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence celebrated Americans for successfully "flattening the curve" of the epidemic.

A day later, a phalanx of the administration's top medical officials sought to reassure the nation that there were plenty of tests available to safely begin easing restrictions.

Governors have been lifting restrictions each day since then, including aggressive moves announced on Wednesday in Montana and Oklahoma.

The Montana governor gave schools the green light to open their doors in early May, and Oklahoma will allow salons, barbershops, spas and pet groomers to reopen today.

Trump, in his evening press conference, did take issue with Republican Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's bold reopening plans. "I disagree strongly," he said. "I think it's too soon."

The governors' moves coincided with lingering bleak news around the country. The death toll in Massachusetts eclipsed 2,000 on Wednesday, doubling from just a week earlier. About 16,000 people remained hospitalised across New York.

A meat plant in Iowa that is vital to the nation's pork supply is the latest slaughterhouse to shut down because of outbreak. With the economy in for a long, brutal slump, Congress was on the verge of passing an almost $500 billion (Sh53.6 trillion) relief bill to bolster small businesses.



An empty patio is seen outside a closed restaurant days before the phased reopening of businesses and restaurants from Covid-19 restrictions in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, on Wednesday. [Reuters]

"We need to create the kind of confidence in America that makes it so that everybody goes back to work."
Kevin Hassett, White House adviser

Italy

Traffic light for bathroom break is new normal

Simone Mela never dreamed that a traffic light would determine when he could take a bathroom break in the factory where he works. But in the world according to coronavirus, that is the new normal.

And he feels lucky to have a job. Only 200 of the 800 workers at the ISA company, which makes refrigerated display cases for bars, restaurants and supermarkets, have so far been able to return to the factory in Italy's Umbria region.

The gradual return has been made possible through a combination of solutions ranging from simple to innovative to high tech.

Strips taped on the floor create walking lanes and delineate work areas.

A yellow and green traffic light system was installed to keep the bathrooms safe. Workers flick a switch as they enter or leave the bathroom and the colour of the light tells those who want to enter if they can or have to wait.

The high-tech end of the company's back-to-work strategy is a system known as SWAT, or System Workers Advance Tracing.

Employees scan an app onto their smartphones and clip a small white device on to their work clothes. It vibrates if they get too close to another worker and simultaneously sends a signal to a computer database.

"We are sure that it is not a tool to spy on us. It is only a device to increase safety distances and to report close contacts," said Mr Mela. "If we find a positive case, it will be easier to trace the contacts they had. We feel very safe."

A similar system is on trial in the port of Antwerp.

ISA's managers realised that if they wanted to stay in business, they had no choice but to modify work patterns and safety measures.

"To help people to cope with this virus, we developed a hardware and software system to help people work and adhere to social distancing," said ISA General Manager Marco Giulietti. **[Reuters]**

In Brief

Crisis. Zambia-Congo market still operating

Zambia's ministry of health is screening people travelling to Kasumbalesa, a one-stop border point with the Democratic Republic of Congo, to check symptoms of Covid-19. Three people have since died of the virus in Zambia. A spot check on the Zambian side found some traders wearing masks while others did not when conducting their businesses. Kasumbalesa Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa assistant officer Charles Maliwe said: "We have since embarked on a sensitisation programme to enforce President Edgar Lungu's directive to wear masks in public places." Kasumbalesa is one of the busiest trading facilities in Zambia. **[Xinhua]**

Coronavirus. Nigeria reports 91 new cases



Nigeria has recorded 91 new cases of coronavirus, bringing the country's total number to 873. The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control said 74 new cases were recorded in the commercial capital, Lagos, which remains the epicentre of transmission with more than 500 cases. The capital, Abuja, now has 119 cases while Kano state has 73 - the highest in northern Nigeria, where state governors have now banned Koranic schools to curb the spread of the virus. Nearly 200 people have been discharged so far in the country while 28 people have died of the disease. **[BBC]**

Somalia. Scribe arrested over links to Al-Shabaab

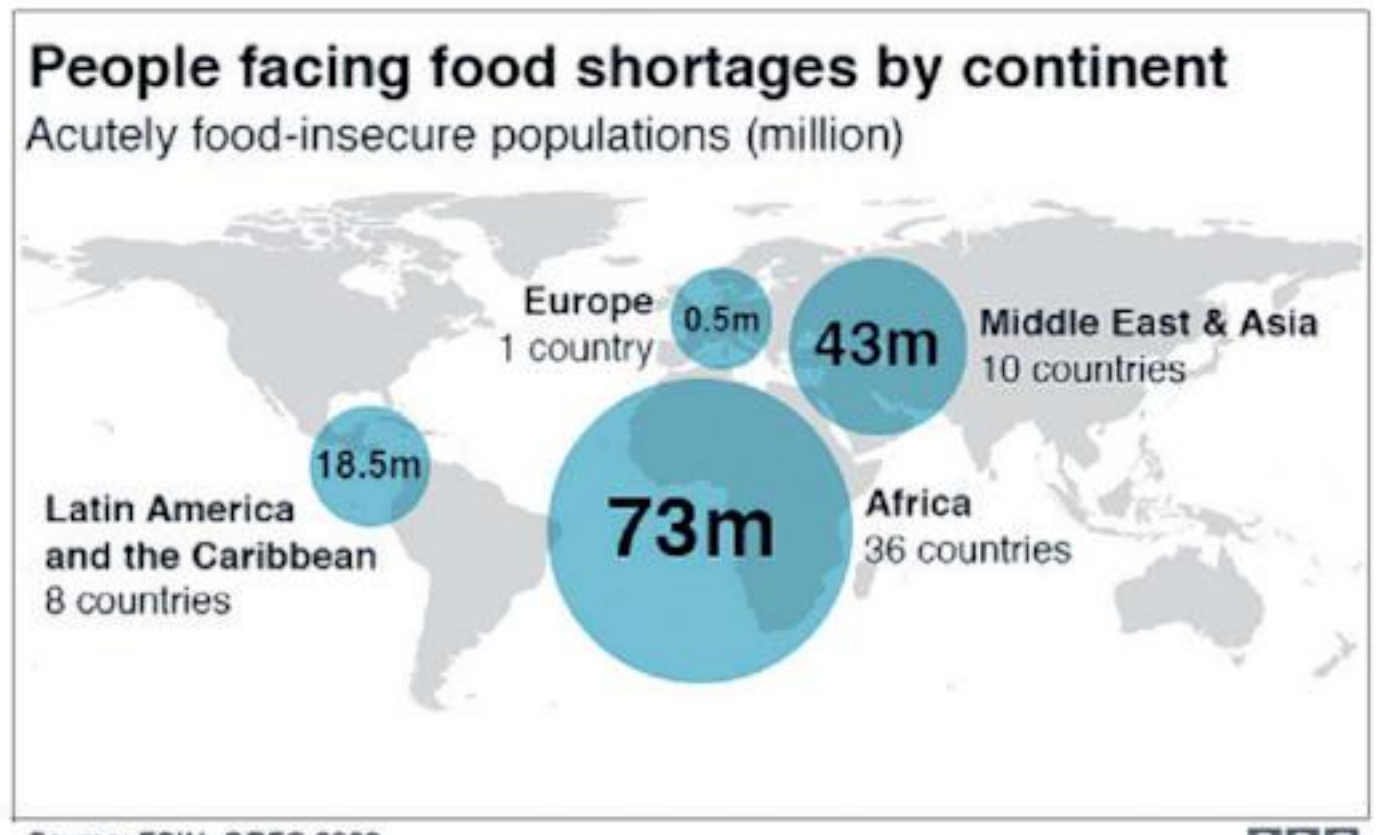
The Somali government on Wednesday confirmed the arrest of a journalist over possible links with the Al-Shabaab terror group. The ministry of information said in a statement that Mohamed Abdiwahab Abuja was being questioned by security forces in Mogadishu for having ties with the group. Abuja is a radio journalist who was arrested by Somali forces on February 27. The security forces said he was involved in a murder case committed on March 6, last year. The ministry said the security forces would charge the journalist with murder. **[Xinhua]**

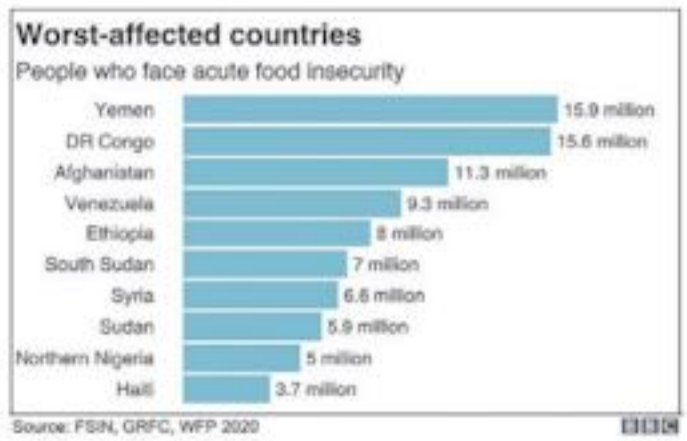
Pandemic. Number of people living with acute hunger likely to rise to 265 million from 135 million last year

Covid-19: 5 countries most at risk from famine in 2020

After more than a quarter of a century of armed conflict, the DRC faces world's second-largest hunger crisis.

By BBC
Rome





As deaths caused by coronavirus around the world continue to rise, the World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that the world faces a possible "hunger pandemic" as the number of people most in need of food could almost double this year.

At the end of 2019, 135 million people were living with "acute hunger". But with many countries around the world enforcing quarantine, that number is likely to rise to 265 million, the WFP says.

"Before the coronavirus even became an issue, I was saying that 2020 would be facing the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II for a number of reasons," WFP executive director David Beasley said on Tuesday.

The organisation, which received $8.3 billion (Sh890 billion) in 2019, now needs between $10 billion-$12 billion (Sh1 trillion-Sh1.2 trillion) to sustain its operations for this year.

So which countries are most at risk?

Yemen

Even before the war in Yemen began, the country was the poorest in the Arab world.

But since a Saudi-led coalition intervened in the conflict against Yemen's Houthi rebels in 2015, the country's humanitarian situation has deteriorated still further.

"As conflicts become longer, more and more people become vulnerable", the WFP's Chief Economist and Director of Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division, Arif Husain, told the BBC. "In 2016 in Yemen, we were maybe assisting three or four million people. Today that number is 12 million."

To make matters worse, the WFP said earlier this month it would halve aid to Houthi-controlled areas, over concerns voiced by some countries that the rebels were obstructing aid deliveries.

Yemen reported its first confirmed case of coronavirus earlier this month, with aid agencies warning that the disease could quickly overwhelm the country's weakened health systems.

DR Congo

After more than a quarter of a century of armed conflict in parts of the country, the DRC is the world's second-largest hunger crisis, according to the WFP.

More than 15 per cent of the country's population are classed as "severely food insecure" - meaning that they are among 30 million people in war zones around the world who are almost completely dependent on aid. Almost $2 billion (Sh214.4 billion) is needed to secure the food supply for these populations in next three months alone, Mr Husain said.

"Those were the worst-affected people and now they're in even more trouble," he said. The DRC also has five million internally displaced people and over half a million refugees from neighbouring countries.

In addition to the heightened risk faced by anyone living in war zones, displaced people are even more vulnerable during the coronavirus outbreak because they often lack basic hygiene facilities needed to help stop the spread of disease.

Earlier this month the spokesman for the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR, warned that ongoing violence in the DRC was threatening efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus there, which has so far mainly affected the capital Kinshasa.

Venezuela

Unlike the other countries on the list, Venezuela's hunger has not been caused by conflict or environmental factors, but rather by economic hardship.

Although Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves, hyperinflation in the country reached 200 per cent in January last year, leaving a third of its people in need of assistance.

The difficulties have been compounded by a mass exodus of health workers, according to WFP.

And the problems don't end there - around 4.8 million people (or 15 per cent of the population) have left Venezuela in recent years, and hundreds of thousands of these migrants are facing food insecurity in neighbouring countries.

South Sudan

The world's youngest country only gained independence from its northern neighbour, Sudan, in 2011. The move was meant to mark the end of a long-running civil war, but the country descended into violent conflict after just two years.

The WFP warns that hunger and malnutrition in South Sudan are at the most extreme levels since 2011, with almost 60 per cent of the population struggling to find food every day.

Making the situation worse, swarms of locusts which had destroyed crops across East Africa arrived in South Sudan earlier this year.

"If Covid(-19) was not a story right now, desert locusts would be the biggest story," according to Husain.

And as one of the most oil-dependent countries in the world, the country is likely to be hit hard by falling oil prices.

The country has now recorded four cases of coronavirus, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Afghanistan

Another country ravaged by conflict, Afghanistan had suffered almost two decades of war when the US invaded in 2001.

Eighteen years later, more than half of the population lives below the poverty line, and over 11 million people are classed as severely food insecure by the WFP.

According to Afghan government figures there have been over 1,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus.

While the numbers appear low, the country has limited access to testing and the health system has suffered under decades of conflict.

There are also fears that the virus could have spread after more than 150,000 Afghans returned from virus-stricken Iran in March, while tens of thousands of others returned from Pakistan.

The new 130 million

In addition to areas affected by war, environmental issues or economic crises, many more low- and middle-income countries are likely to be affected by job losses and other economic difficulties caused by the spread of coronavirus in the coming months.

The problem will be made worse by similar economic pressures in countries across the world, meaning that remittances, or money being sent back from relatives abroad, will fall in these countries.

"The most important thing is an affordable treatment which must be available to everyone across the world," Husain said.

Shilling holds steady. The shilling was stable against the dollar yesterday as market activity remained low due to the Covid-19 pandemic, traders said. In early trading, commercial banks quoted the shilling at 106.95/107.15 per dollar, the same as Wednesday's closing level. [Reuters]



Business

SPORTS: TENNIS: WHY MEN AND WOMEN WANT TO BE JOINED INTO ONE BODY . **P.36**

On Twitter: @WSJ

"We knew we shouldn't." Some Amazon employees said they used data from third-party sellers to develop competing products.

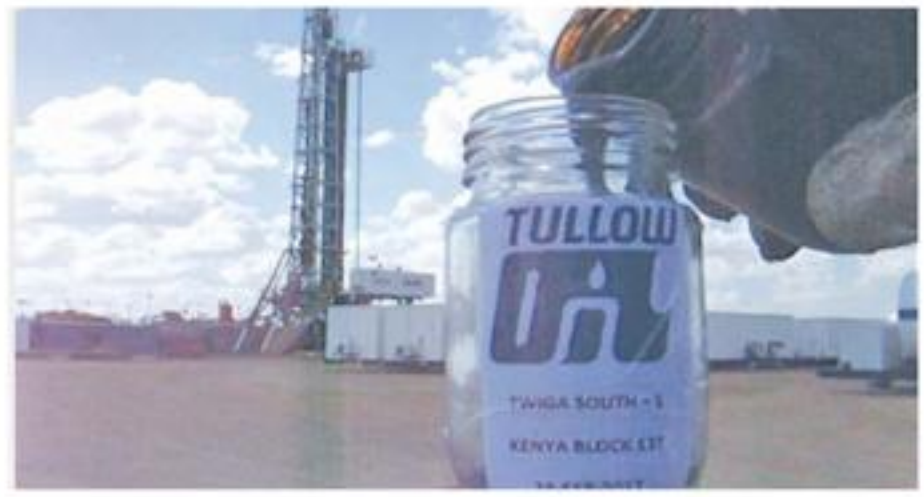


Downside. Continued slide of prices internationally also a major blow to country

Tullow: Virus could rain on Kenya's oil parade

Firm warns suspension of key works due to pandemic likely to derail scheduled transition to commercial production phase.

By Dominic Omondi
dakure@standardmedia.co.ke



The Coronavirus pandemic is likely to further delay Kenya's dream of starting commercial production of oil.

In its latest update to shareholders, the British-based company at the heart of oil production in Kenya has expressed doubt over the country's ability to complete the Final Investment Decision (FID) before the end of this year.

"In Kenya, a number of key workstreams have been suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions and while focus remains on the critical activities required for a Final Investment Decision (FID), Tullow will continue to monitor the impact these restrictions may have on the FID target," explained Tullow in a statement.

FID is a technical term for when the project execution phase begins and the big money starts being spent on its construction. With FID, Tullow can embark on large-scale production with the country officially joining the club of oil exporters. But this is now in doubt.

The country has been trucking 2,000 barrels of oil daily from the oil fields of Lokichar to the defunct refinery in Mombasa for export in what is meant to be a precursor to commercial production set for 2022. Even worse is the sharp decline in the price of oil in the global market, with experts noting that at a price of below $20 (Sh2,120) a barrel, Kenya's oil production is not viable.

Early this year, Tullow announced a restructuring of its operations after "disappointing exploration results in Guyana and production problems in Ghana", which led to the resignation of the company's chief executive and the exploration director in December.

The shake-up led to a bloodbath at its counter at the London Stock Exchange, with shareholders losing Sh180.6 billion in paper wealth in three months.

In Kenya, employees were put on the chopping board with the company eying a farmout - the assignment of part or all of an oil, natural gas or mineral interest to a third party for development.

Tullo Kenya Managing Director Martin Mbogo said the restructuring is group-wide and informed by Tullow's announcement in December that its global oil production and associated revenues in 2020 and beyond would be lower than earlier projections.

"In Kenya, the team will be reduced and will only be focused on the critical path activities that will allow us to continue to target FID at the end of 2020," said Mr Mbogo. There are reports that the government has questioned Tullow's calculation of capital investment, which the firm estimates at around Sh250 billion.

This saw the Petroleum and Mining Ministry recently enlist the services of an audit company to help it ascertain Tullow's true investment.

"The objective will be to confirm the validity of the expenditures and the completeness of the revenue and production based on the terms of the agreement and the production sharing contracts of blocks 10BB and 13T," said the ministry.

Corona impact

Diaspora cash to dip by Sh47tr, says WB

Kenyans will receive less money from the diaspora this year as the coronavirus pandemic continues to hurt the global economy.

According to a new study by the World Bank, global remittances are projected to decline sharply by about 20 per cent this year due to the economic crisis induced by the virus.

The remittances to low and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to fall by 19.7 per cent to $445 billion (Sh47.1 trillion), signalling a loss of a crucial financing lifeline for many vulnerable households.

Sh280b
■ Money Kenyans living and working abroad sent home last year

Sh47.1 tr
■ Projected remittances to low and middle-income countries this year

"Remittances are a vital source of income for developing countries. The ongoing economic recession caused by Covid-19 is taking a severe toll on the ability to send money home and makes it all the more vital that we shorten the time to recovery for advanced economies," said World Bank Group President David Malpass. Last year, Kenyans working and living abroad sent home a record $2.7 billion (Sh280 billion), according to the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK).

This reflected a 3.7 per cent growth from 2018 when diaspora remittances stood at $2.6 billion (Sh272.3 billion).

The projected drop in money from abroad has been compounded by the loss of wages as many workers in foreign countries have been laid off or put on unpaid leave, with many source countries imposing total lockdowns.

Majority of African migrants reside in the EU, the United States, the Middle East and China. These economies are a source of close to a quarter of total remittances sent to the region.

Last year, diaspora cash to Kenya came from North America, which accounted for the biggest share at 50 per cent, with Europe accounting for 20 per cent, while "the rest of the world" accounted for the remaining 30 per cent.

The World Bank study also found an increase in remittance cost, with the global average cost of sending $200 remaining at a high of 6.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2020, with sub-Sahara Africa having the highest average cost of nine per cent.

"Quick actions that make it easier to send and receive remittances can provide much-needed support to the lives of migrants and their families. These include treating remittance services as essential and making them more accessible to migrants," said Dilip Ratha, lead author of the report.

But the sector is expected to improve by four per cent in 2021 if the pandemic doesn't spill over to the last quarter of the year. **[Issack Mohammed]**

In Brief

Virus. Foreign investors weigh options on Kenya

■ The coronavirus pandemic is forcing international investors to re-evaluate their position on their Kenyan operations, a new survey shows. According to the survey by Delegation of German Industry and Commerce for Eastern Africa (AHK Eastern Africa) for April, 82.6 per cent of the companies polled are concerned that the current travel restrictions will affect their businesses the most. This is followed by a fall in demand for their products at 65.2 per cent. Maren Diale-Schellschmidt, a delegate of the lobby, said German companies in the country expect their turnover to reduce by between 10 and 50 per cent, as the pandemic continues to ravage the global economy. **[Issack Awal]**

Tech. Apple expands to new Africa markets

■ Apple Inc on Tuesday said it would expand its App Store, Apple Music and other services to dozens of new markets in Africa, the Middle East and beyond in the biggest geographical expansion of its services in almost a decade. Apple said it would expand the App Store to 20 countries, eight of them in Africa, and will offer its streaming Apple Music service in 52 additional countries and regions. The expansion is the largest since Apple grew what was then called the iTunes Store to India, Russia and more than 50 other countries in 2012. Apple has focused on growing sales from its services segment, which totalled 17.8 per cent of its $260.1 billion (Sh27.1 trillion) in revenue in its most recent fiscal year, as consumers have slowed in upgrading their smartphones. Apple executives said in January the company had an installed base of 1.5 billion active devices and aimed to reach 600 million subscribers to either its own or third-party services by the end of this year. **[Reuters]**



Pandemic. Centum feeds needy families

■ Investment firm Centum has donated foodstuff to atleast 2,000 vulnerable households in Vipingo area, Kilifi County, to help them deal with the effects of Covid-19. The initiative, launched yesterday, is a joint effort of the firm, homeowners at the Centum Vipingo project and other partners. Centum has partnered with Tuskys Supermarket to package the food donations into hampers that will support a family for approximately two weeks. **[Correspondent]**

Moratorium

Insurers offer relief on premiums

Insurance policyholders will enjoy a three-month grace period to help them cope with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the sector regulator has said.

The insurance regulatory authority (IRA) said the moratorium would apply for both contributions for insurance covers and renewal of premiums.

"Insurers should avail policyholders a three-month grace period. The grace period may be over and above any contractual premium holidays already in place for existing policies," said IRA Chief Executive Godfrey Kiptum in a statement.

This comes a few weeks after industry players agreed to cover patients affected by the pandemic following consultations with the regulator.

The regulator warned insurers against introducing new product exclusions or changing terms of their product without informing them.

"Insurers should conduct and submit to the authority a stress and scenario testing, including updating of capital adequacy calculations and liquidity strains due to the effects of Covid-19," said Mr Kiptum.

Kenya has ten broad categories of general insurance.

These are motor, medical, fire, aviation, engineering, liability, marine, personal accident, theft and workman's compensation.

The sector has been grappling with rising claims that saw an underwriting loss of Sh2.97 billion in the last quarter of last year.

The moratorium is expected to further strain insurers who are expected to continue settling claims for which premiums have been paid even for motor and medical insurance, which are notorious for fraudulent claims. **[Awal Mohammed]**

Cash crunch. Botswana-based firm has since close down Kenya operations

Retailer loses out in Sh173m tax dispute

Court thwarts Choppies bid to have accounts unfrozen pending resolution of case with taxman.

By Dominic Omondi
dakure@standardmedia.co.ke

Choppies Enterprises Ltd, a retail chain with origins in Botswana, has lost its bid seeking to compel the taxman to unfreeze its accounts over a Sh173.4 million tax dispute.

Choppies, which has since exited the Kenyan market following a poor run, had moved to court seeking the order, pending resolution of the case.

However, High Court judge David Majanja dismissed the application with costs to Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).

KRA froze the accounts after it realised that the retail chain, which got a foothold in Kenya by acquiring Ukwala Supermarkets Ltd, was in the process of winding up its business in Kenya. The tax agency argued that the cash-strapped retailer had already sold its branches, assets and stocks to Tusker Mattresses Supermarkets, Chandarana Supermarkets, Quickmart Supermarkets and Appmatt Ltd without informing it despite the ongoing tax dispute.

"Choppies was faulted for not disclosing their financial position; they did not disclose how much was held in their accounts and what would be realised from the sale of their assets," said Paul Matuku, a commissioner in charge of legal services at KRA.

The court ruled that Choppies should provide security for taxes payable to KRA since it had closed shop in the country.



The retailer had entered the Kenyan market after acquiring Ukwala Supermarkets' branches. [File, Standard]

Further, the court gave the retailer and KRA 14 days to explore an amicable settlement of the tax dispute.

Nakumatt is another retail chain that went down with billions in unpaid taxes. Besides owing creditors, including landlords and suppliers as much as Sh40 billion, the erstwhile retail chain owes KRA about Sh2.3 billion.

With revenues declining due to the difficult economic environment, which has been compounded by the coronavirus pandemic, KRA has resorted to enforcing compliance to optimise its collection.

> "Choppies was faulted for not disclosing their financial position; they did not disclose how much was held in their accounts and what would be realised from the sale of their assets."
>
> **Paul Matuku, a commissioner at KRA**

Yesterday, the taxman also directed business owners trading on digital platforms to charge value-added tax (VAT) on their transactions and remit the taxes.

In a statement, the Commissioner for Domestic Taxes Elizabeth Meyo expressed concern that some digital business owners are not charging VAT as required by law.

"All non-compliant traders are hereby advised to comply to avoid penalties and interests on outstanding taxes failure to which appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the law. Where fraud will be detected, appropriate criminal proceedings shall be bought against the offenders," said Meyo. KRA is under pressure to aggressively collect taxes against a tough business environment, with the economy expected to suffer as a result of the coronavirus pandemic that has driven firms into bankruptcy.

NAIROBI STOCKS

Main Investment Market 23/04/2020

HIGH	LOW		VWAP	PREVIOUS	VOLUME
		AGRICULTURAL			
17.60	9.90	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25 AIMS	10.00	10.00	600
460.00	290.00	Kakuzi Plc Ord 5.00		310.00	-
100.00	57.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Plc Ord Ord 5.00 AIMS		71.00	-
605.00	405.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Plc Ord 20.00 AIMS		475.00	-
22.70	14.00	Sasini Plc Ord 1.00	17.00	16.50	400
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00 AIMS	112.75	115.00	2,000
		AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES			
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		23.50	-
		BANKING			
13.85	9.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 0.50	10.70	10.35	96,800
31.00	22.40	BK Group Plc Ord 0.80		22.40	-
166.00	76.50	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	86.00	87.25	1,100
55.50	32.15	Equity Group Holdings Plc Ord 0.50	34.95	35.75	2,472,600
7.90	3.38	HF Group Plc Ord 5.00	4.00	4.02	21,600
126.00	42.50	I&M Holdings Plc Ord 1.00	50.00	52.75	2,300
55.50	33.75	KCB Group Plc Ord 1.00	36.75	36.75	1,014,500
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	-
41.00	24.90	NCBA Group Plc Ord 5.00	28.75	28.75	1,238,300
115.00	83.00	Stanbic Holdings Plc ord 5.00	94.50	90.50	800
225.00	168.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ord 5	194.75	196.00	3,544,800
16.60	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd 1.00	12.40	12.25	82,800
		COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES			
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Plc Ord 2.50 AIMS		0.45	-
1.30	0.77	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.86	0.80	700
8.50	4.95	Express Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00 AIMS		5.80	-
9.50	0.89	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	0.96	0.98	1,042,300
8.80	4.26	Longhorn Publishers Plc Ord 1.00 AIMS	4.90	4.53	1,200
1.20	0.54	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord. 1.00 GEMS	0.60	0.60	1,000
71.00	22.00	Nation Media Group Plc Ord. 2.50	23.45	23.40	27,100
4.70	1.72	Sameer Africa Plc Ord 5.00	2.11	2.20	2,000
33.00	19.50	Standard Group Plc Ord 5.00	20.00	19.80	200
25.35	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	15.00	15.40	400
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Plc Ord 5.00	0.30	0.28	400
22.00	9.90	WPP Scangroup Plc Ord 1.00	16.00	17.00	18,400
		CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED			
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Plc Ord 1.0		5.55	-
145.75	45.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	48.00	48.50	10,200
92.00	53.00	Crown Paints Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		53.00	-
3.98	1.44	E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50	1.80	1.80	14,600
20.50	12.95	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00		14.25	-
		ENERGY & PETROLEUM			
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Plc Ord. 2.50/6.06	4.94	4.90	104,600
5.50	1.63	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Ltd Ord 2.50	2.13	2.17	300,200
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Ltd 4% Pref 20.00		5.00	-
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Ltd 7% Pref 20.00		6.00	-
33.00	22.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	23.85	23.75	900
8.70	5.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	6.88	6.88	2,800
		INSURANCE			
10.50	5.70	Britam Holdings Plc Ord 0.10	6.62	6.90	56,800
4.85	2.00	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.17	2.25	60,000
462.00	250.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		280.00	-
16.30	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.49	2.52	23,800
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord. 1.00		8.50	-
26.00	13.80	Sanlam Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	15.00	15.00	100
		INVESTMENT			
37.40	19.60	Centum Investment Co Plc Ord 0.50	23.30	23.15	188,300
0.77	0.30	Home Afrika Ltd Ord 1.00 GEMS	0.42	0.41	3,400
1,500.00	1,500.00	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00 GEMS		1,500.00	-
3.39	2.00	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00		2.30	-
4.50	1.60	Trans-Century Plc Ord 0.50 AIMS	1.70	1.61	100
		INVESTMENT SERVICES			
16.00	8.24	Nairobi Securities Exchange Plc Ord 4.00	8.84	9.00	32,200
		MANUFACTURING & ALLIED			
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Plc Ord 5.00		65.25	-
700.00	350.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Plc Ord 10.00	350.75	351.25	3,500
10.80	7.10	Carbacid Investments Plc Ord 1.00	8.90	9.00	1,300
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	149.00	148.00	17,100
3.15	0.87	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825 GEMS	0.97	0.90	300
14.00	12.25	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00 AIMS		12.25	-
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	-
42.00	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	29.00	29.00	100
		TELECOMMUNICATION			
33.50	20.10	Safaricom Plc Ord 0.05	28.20	27.95	5,791,100
		REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST			
11.00	6.88	STANLIB FAHARI I-REIT Ord. 20.00		8.84	-
		EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS			
1,650.00	1,235.00	Barclays New Gold ETF	1,785.00	1,740.00	7,000

NSE All Share Index Up 0.49 points to close at 137.56; **NSE 20-Share Index** Down 14.97 points to close at 1970.79; **NSE 25-Share Index** Up 1.54 points to close at 3195.95

UNIT TRUSTS

MONEY FUNDS	Daily Yield	E.A. Rate
Sanlam Pesa+ Fund	9.30%	9.75%
Alpha Africa Kasha Money Market	9.19%	9.89%
CIC Money Market Fund	9.30%	9.64%
Zimele Money Market Fund	9.56%	9.91%
Madison Money Market Fund	9.40%	9.85%
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	4.75%	4.85%
ICEA Money Market Fund	7.94%	8.27%
Britam Money Market Fund	9.05%	9.43%
GenCap Hela Imara Fund	8.81%	9.21%
STANLIB Money Market Fund	5.74%	5.89%
African Alliance Kenya Shilling Fund	6.88%	7.09%
Nabo KES Money Market Fund	9.45%	9.87%
Co-op Money Market Fund	8.39%	8.72%
OTHER FUNDS	**Buy**	**Sell**
Sanlam Chama+ Fund	14.45	14.90
CIC Fixed Income Fund	8.73	8.62
Zimele Balanced Fund	8.07	7.83
Madison Equity Fund	36.71	36.71
Old Mutual Bond Fund	100.56	100.56
ICEA Bond Fund	101.03	101.03
Britam Equity Fund	131.66	136.24
STANLIB Balanced Fund	84.29	84.29
Nabo Africa Balanced Fund	86.03	84.36

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	MEAN
US DOLLAR	105.9088
STG POUND	131.5444
EURO	115.3624
SA RAND	5.8757
KES/USHS	35.7384
KES/TSHS	21.8396
KES/RWF	8.9920
KES/BIF	17.8503
AE DIRHAM	28.8332
CAN$	76.3417
S FRANC	109.7502
JPY (100)	98.3232
SWK RONER	10.6283
NOR KRONER	10.3750
DAN K RONER	15.5298
IND RUPEE	1.3877
HONGKONG DOLLAR	13.6620
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	74.8367
SAUDI RIYAL	28.1672
CHINESE YUAN	15.0302
AUSTRALIAN $	68.0358

BANK RATES

	US DOLLAR			EURO		
	BUY	SELL	MARG.	BUY	SELL	MARG
ABC	106.90	107.10	0.20	116.21	116.44	0.23
EQUITY	107.00	107.20	0.20	116.30	116.56	0.26
I&M	106.90	107.10	0.20	116.33	116.57	0.25
DIAMOND TRUST	107.05	107.25	0.20	116.20	116.46	0.26
FIDELITY	106.90	107.10	0.20	116.33	116.57	0.25
KCB	107.25	107.25	0.20	116.57	116.32	0.25
PRIME	107.20	107.30	0.20	116.44	116.69	0.25
FAMILY BANK	106.95	107.25	0.20	116.20	116.46	0.26
CFC STANBIC	107.25	107.25	0.20	116.57	116.32	0.25
CITIBANK	107.20	107.30	0.20	116.35	116.60	0.25
NCBA	107.20	107.30	0.20	116.42	116.66	0.24
KCB	107.25	107.25	0.20	116.27	116.51	0.24
STANDARD	107.25	107.35	0.20	116.46	116.72	0.26
GULF	106.95	107.25	0.20	115.90	116.16	0.26
BOA	107.00	107.20	0.20	116.20	116.46	0.26
CO-OP	107.20	107.30	0.20	116.32	116.57	0.25
ABSA	107.25	107.25	0.20	116.5	116.78	0.27

Source: Central Bank

DAY'S GAINERS

Stock	Price	% daily change	Volume
LKL	4.90	+8.17	1,200
FTGH	0.97	+7.78	300
EVRD	0.86	+7.50	700
UCHM	0.30	+7.14	400
TCL	1.70	+5.59	100

DAY'S LOSERS

Stock	Price	% daily change	Volume
SCAN	16.00	-5.88	18,400
I&M	50.00	-5.21	2,300
FIRE	2.11	-4.09	2,000
BRIT	6.62	-4.06	56,800
CIC	2.17	-3.56	60,000

CSR

Health workers to get free lunch

Sarova Hotels and Resorts will provide food to frontline healthcare workers at the heart of the war against the coronavirus pandemic.

The hotel chain said yesterday it will for the next one month provide daily lunches to more than 200 health workers offering critical services to patients at both the Kenyatta National Hospital and Mbagathi Hospital.

"The move is a gesture by Sarova to say thank you and recognise the bravery and commitment of the heroes and heroines in the facilities who have put their lives on the line to lead the war to eradicate the virus," said Managing Director Jimi Kariuki. **[Standard Reporter]**

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EMBU
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ELDORET
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TEL: 0719 012750.

KAKAMEGA
Ambwere Plaza,
2nd Floor, Kenyatta Street.
Telephone: 0719-012881.

KISII
Galaxy - Opposite Nakumatt.
Tel: 0719-012870 or 0719-012873.

KISUMU
Tuffoam Mall, Ground Floor, Opposite Varsity Plaza, Achieng Oneko Road
Tel: 071901 2870/ 2876/ 2877

MOMBASA
Diamond Trust,
Ground Floor, Moi Avenue.
Tel: 0719-012841.

NAKURU
Merica Building,
2nd floor, along Kenyatta Avenue.
Tel: 0719-012869, 0719-012855.

NYERI
Sun Guest House & Hotel,
1st floor, Opp Central Hotel, Along Kanisa Road.
Tel: 0719-012891, Advertising: 0719-012894.

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NAIROBI & UPCOUNTRY

PERSONAL NOTICES

A9/LOST

LOST title Kajiado/Olchoronyore/8870

LOST title deed Dagoretti/Kinoo/4174

A22/NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The owner of land parcel **DONYO SABUK/KOMAROCK BLOCK 1/4081** situated in Komarock township proposes to change its use from **Agricultural to Residential Multi-dwelling** subject to approval by Machakos County Government.
Individuals, Institutions, Organisations etc. with comments or objections are requested to forward them in writing within 14 Days of this notice to:
Town Manager,
Kangundo-Tala Municipality,
P.O Box 1996-Machakos

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K1/SERVICES

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RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS PROPERTIES

L1/PROPERTIES FOR SALE

BURUBURU ph2 4br maisonette @12M 0746806982

KAHAWA Wendani 5storey building with 59units bedsitters income 590000kpm, price @55M Neg 0746806982

KASARANI Maternity 6 storey building with 42units of bedsitters each @6500 plus 2units of 1 br each @10000 total inc 293000kpm price 30M 0746806982

KASARANI Clayworks 6storey building with inc 367000kpm price @40M 0746806982

KIAMBU Kirigiti 5 storey building with 20units of 3br each @26500kpm price 55M 0746806982

KIAMBU RD Mushroom estate 5br maisonette on 0.5acre @70M 0746806982

1.8 ACRE Upperhill 1.1B Elgon Road, 1/2acre near Nazarene University 16m 0.9acre Waiyaki Way near HHM 300M 1/4ac Acacia Kite 2.7m 0788-522434

RUIRU Mugutha 3br new bungalow on 50*100ft @7.5 m 0746806982

ZIMMERMAN 5storey hse with 62units of 1br @12000k per unit total ncome 744000kpm price 83M 0746806982

L9/PLOTS/LAND FOR SALE

35 acres for sale - Kajiado 2 parcels of 35 acres at 2.1m per acre. Can be subdivided on request Call 0708443731

1/8 Ac Namanga 600k neg 0723785864

5AC @1M, Dundori-Charagita 0724142050

ATHI river town 1.5Acres industrial plot tarmac 0722858562

BIRIKA 6.5 ac Tony 0725772819

BIRIKA 2a, 1.5a, 1.4a 0725772819

DAGORETTI 0.160ac 0722519049

DAWAMU 50/100 1.2m 0725749900

EMBU Kiamuringa 10 acres 1km off Siakago road. 0787230086

ISINYA Nkito Town 50x100 plot ready title 7kms tarmac 0725210219

ISINYA 5 acres fronting tarmac & 24 acres town centre. 0725210219 owner

JUJA prime plts at Juja Town 1/8ac@3.3m 0728150836/ 0724238459

JUJA Kenyatta Rd 1/8ac title 3M, Muigai-Inn 1/8ac, 2.8M 0722467230, 0733213170

KAJIADO Town 1/4 plots Naisula area on tarmac clean titles. Quick sale.0721520121

KAMITI Corner / Kamiti Ridge Estate 1/8acre 300M from main tarmac road ready titles call 0713998763, 0722527806

KAMULU 40x100 900K 0722788500

KANTAFU Donyo Sabuk 1/8acre 500m from tarmac ready titles call 0713998763, 0722527806

KARANJEE Lmr 1/8 plt dev 0788 395050

KAREN 20acr @50M per acr 0777904073

KAREN 2.5acres prime land ready for development. Offers. 0722-526408

KAREN Hills Gated 1 Acre 70m Call Owner 0733 201327

KAREN- 1/2ac plot red soil 35m call: 0729906210

KAREN Shade 1/2ac 22M 0722467230

KASARANI Clayworks touching Thika RD 0.25ac good for Petrol Station @35M 0746806982, 0721793439

KASARANI 1/2 acre, title 0777 370 184

KASARANI 6storey HSE inc 280KPM @32M 0746806982

KATANI 1/4acre behind Katani Hospital 2.5m ono 0723560455

KATANI 1/4 Acre 3.5M 0717-333344

KENOL plots 1/8 acre.Call 0720315329 or 0728938358

KIAMBU road Kugeria 1/2 acre mature garden 0721564522

KIKUYU Nachu 1/8ac 110K, 250K 0705910444, 0717998910 PATTMOS

KIMANA/TIKONDO 58 acres near Sopa Lodges 0722519049 owner

KISAJU Afya Sacco Scheme 1/4 acre 3km from main road 0722762750

KITENGELA quick sale, prime 1/4acre plot @ 2.7M Call: 0727889160

KONZA 2ac Comm Plot 5M. 0722782389

KONZA 300mts @475k 0799455444

KONZA Malili 200Acres 0722753615

LAIKIPIA 428 acres overlooking Mwituria Hill neighboring\Olpajeta Conservancy, Nyeri/Nyhrr rd. 0722519049 owner

LAKE elementaita plot next to the lake 5acres suitable for camps, lodges, Neg 0783988686

L.ELEMENTAITA land touching the lake good, for hotel 0700632181

LAVINGTON Hatheru RD 0.5Ac @120M 0746806982

LENANA 2-5Acres ideal for development on tarmac 0722858562

MAANZONI 2acs 45m, 0733522375

MAKUYU Manaja @180k 0799455444

MARAGUA Kaharati 4ac 0723488507

MARAGWA Bobo 1.2Ac 0703585111

MATHIRA 8.5acres 0718583849

MAURUI bypass 1/2ac 0722467230

MEMBLY prime 1/8ac, 1/4ac 0722467230

NAIVASHA 6acres 0721991166

NANYUKI 2km @370k 0799455444

NAZRA Estate prime Title 0722815340

NDEIYA 1/4ac 1.2m 0789471888

NDEIYA 2ac tarmac 0789471888

NDEIYA 4ac tarmac 0789471888

NGARA, Pangani, Sec 3. 50x100 comm. title. Price - 38-68M neg 0721513344

NGONG road nakumat juntion. 1acres with petro station. 600m neg.0722520514

NGONG Oloolua Karen West 50x100 8acre plots. 0722682286 owner

NGONG / kimuka 1/8 ksh 1.1 m 6 months instalment 0723218023

NYAMAKIMA Duruma RD 50*100 ft plot with old building price @150M 0746806982

OLKALOU 10, 20, 270ac 0722467230

ONGATA- Rongai Nkoroi 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, acre plots ready title: 0722682286

ONGATA Rongai Masai Lodge 5Acres prime land 0722858562

ONGATA Rongai prime plots, 400m from rd & 3br Bungalows 0721646646

PANGANI 1acre on Thika Rd. Super Highway prime 0721564522

PRIME 16 quarter acre plots located 17km frm Magadi Rd 10km from Tuala market price 800K per plot. Contact 0724845326, 0722864924

REDHILL Heights Gatanga rd 6km off Thika rd 1/2acre gated 10m. Call 0722662774 owner

RONGAI-ACACIA 50X100@3m 1km from h/way. call 0774883429

RUIRU Kmakis Bypass behind 3rings 50x100ft Commercial plots with title @9.5M 0746806982

THOME 1 touching bypass 0.5ac @60M 0746806982



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Mombasa: Moi Avenue Diamond Trust Ground Floor Nyeri: Sun Guest House & Hotel, 1st Floor Opp Central Hotel, Along Kanisa Road.
Eldoret: Sirgoi House, 2nd Floor next to JKUAT and Opp. Juma Hajee Arcade on Odinga Oginga Street.
Kakamega: Ambewere Plaza, 2nd Floor, Kenyatta Street **Kisii:** Galaxy – Opposite Nakumatt

The Standard

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Horse racing. Japan's Racing Association yesterday extended a ban on spectators until the end of next month, dashing hopes that fans could be allowed to attend the Japanese Derby in Tokyo on May 28. All races "will be held without spectators from the viewpoint of preventing spread of the new coronavirus" until May 31, the JRA said, with a decision on allowing the gates to reopen to be made at a later date. Horses and jockeys will not be allowed to travel between regions, the JRA said. **[AFP]**



Sports

FOOTBALL: WHY THIS IS THE BEST TIME TO SHOWCASE OUR PREMIER LEAGUE. PG 48

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Drive-through test centres, and 20,000 tests.This is how the Bundesliga plan to start playing in May .



Cricket



Indian's Prakash (left) celebrates the dismissal of Pakistani Muhammad Jamil.

McCullum says T20 World Cup could be moved to 2021

Former New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum thinks this year's Twenty20 World Cup is unlikely to go ahead as planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic and could be moved to early 2021 with the Indian Premier League (IPL) taking the October-November slot.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus has brought sport to a standstill around the world and jeopardised T20 cricket's flagship tournament in Australia.

The IPL was scheduled to begin on March 29 but has been suspended indefinitely.

"As a punter, if I were to put my final dollar on what the schedule would look like, it would be that the T20 World Cup has got to be at risk," McCullum said on the Sky Cricket podcast.

"I can't see them playing the T20 World Cup behind closed doors either."

"There may be a window a bit later in the new year of 2021 which could then open up for the IPL."

McCullum said the IPL could be played behind closed doors as strong television numbers were guaranteed in cricket-mad India.

"The ICC and world cricket need crowds to operate but India can probably sustain things commercially behind closed doors because they are going to get so many eyeballs," said McCullum.

"The IPL will target that October window and the T20 World Cup will be pushed back," added the 38-year-old, now coach of the IPL's Kolkata Knight Riders. **[Reuters]**

Tennis. Move could help the sport recover from coronavirus shutdown

Why men and women want to be joined into one body

Federer's idea for one "stronger body" received great response from top players.

By AFP
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WTA founder Billie Jean King and Rafael Nadal led a wave of support for Roger Federer's suggestion that "now is the time" to merge the men's and women's governing bodies, while tennis is at a standstill because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Federer, winner of a record 20 men's Grand Slam crowns, said a merger of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and the men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) "probably should have happened a long time ago" in a series of tweets.

The Swiss great's idea for one "stronger body" received an enthusiastic response from King, Nadal and leading women's players such as former Wimbledon champions Simona Halep, Petra Kvitova and Garbine Muguruza, but controversial Australian Nick Kyrgios expressed reservations.

"Just wondering... am I the only one thinking that now is the time for men's and women's tennis to be united and come together as one?" Federer posed to his 12.7 million Twitter followers.

Trailblazer King, who was instrumental in establishing the WTA in 1973, said such a merger "has long been my vision for tennis".

"I agree, and have been saying so since the early 1970s. One voice, women and men together... Let's make it happen," she tweeted.

Nadal, who has 19 Grand Slam titles, posted: "I completely agree that it would be great to get out of this world crisis with the union of men's and women's tennis in one only organisation."

Federer and Nadal argued that a merger could help tennis recover from the coronavirus shutdown, which has seen Wimbledon cancelled for the first time since World War II and the French Open postponed from May to the end of September.

"It probably should have happened a long time ago, but maybe now is really the time," Federer wrote.

He said the current system was "too confusing for the fans when there are different ranking systems, different logos, different websites, different tournament categories".

World number two and reigning Wimbledon champion Halep agreed, tweeting that Federer was "not the only one" thinking along those lines, while Muguruza added, "Yes, would be a good idea".

Two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova tweeted: "Hands up if you agree with @rogerfederer," alongside a raised-hand emoji.

"These are tough times in every sport and we can come out of this with 2 weakened bodies or 1 stronger body."

Roger Federer, winner of a record 20 men's Grand Slam crowns



Spain's Garbine Muguruza celebrates in a past match against Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer. [Reuters]

Rugby. 'Pau' pays tribute to Shujaa youngsters for saving his face

Why Murunga can't forget 2018/19 season

Former national Sevens team tactician reveals how pleased he was after the squad retained its core status in World Series.

By Rodgers Eshitemi
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Kenya rugby fans will never forget the 2018/19 season.This was when the national Sevens rugby team survived relegation from the World Sevens Series by a whisker.

But if there was a man who was more relieved than anyone else then, it was former coach Paul 'Pau' Murunga.

Though Kenya had flirted with relegation in the recent past seasons, the Homeboyz RFC coach feels history would have judged him harshly if Shujaa had gone down during his tenure.

This was the toughest moment ever for Murunga in his coaching career.

Kenya has never been relegated since making its debut in the World Sevens Series in 1999. They became a core team in 2004.

Unlike the previous season where Kenya finished eighth on the overall table standings with a historic 104 points, the former Singapore champions had to wait until the final leg of the season in Paris for them to retain their core status after their relegation rivals, Wales and Japan failed to go past the pool stages.

Kenya beat Wales 26-21 in the preliminary round tie and consequently qualified for the quarterfinals-for the first time that season-as Japan fell 22-21 to Scotland.

The feat saw Shujaa finish 13th on the log with 37 points, six ahead of Wale with Japan relegated (27).

However, Shujaa's tribulations last season were self-inflicted as the disagreement between the Kenya Rugby Union and senior players over contractual issues coupled by poor preseason, nearly cost Kenya its core status.

The absence of second all-time top try scorers Collins Injera, Andrew Amonde, Nelson Oyoo, William Ambaka, Billy Odhiambo and Samuel Oliech was heavily felt as the team was involved in the relegation dogfight through-out the season.

And even as many criticised the union for setting up Murunga to fail, the tactician has come out to pay tribute to his youthful squad led by Johnstone Olindi, Vincent Onyala (KCB) and Daniel Taabu (Mwamba) for saving him blushes.

"Considering that most of the senior players had boycotted the call-ups over contractual issues with the union, I had no option but to use the youngsters who were available," Murunga told *Standard Sports*.

"We were fighting for our lives. But I thank them because they stood with me and ensured we retain our status in the circuit despite all the challenges we faced. I can't imagine how people would be treating us, had we been relegated."

He added: "These youngsters were in a very tough situation because they had to play most of the matches without a proper pre-season and experience."

"Teams prepare for the Series in terms of pre-season and conditioning, something that we didn't do well."

"But the confidence they had even when some senior players thought we needed a backup in France to avoid relegation, lifted the team. Without players with such characters and fighting spirit, maybe we could have been relegated."

Despite the arrival of world cup-winning coach New Zealander coach Paul Feeney and the return of senior players this season, Shujaa have been blowing hot and cold.

Kenya is currently 12th on the table (35 points) with four legs to go.



Former national Sevens rugby team coach Paul Murunga. [Jonah Onyango, Standard]

Paul Murunga's record in 2018/19 World Sevens Series

- Overall position: 13th
- Points: 37
- He replaced Innocent Simiyu in 2018
- He was succeeded by Paul Feeney in 2019

Golf Column

Is this the year that will change the way we play golf?

Vincent Wang'ombe



In 1992, Queen Elizabeth II declared the year "annus horribilis", a Latin phrase meaning a horrible year.

This was after death by suicide of her nephew, a lot of bad publicity on members of the Royal Family as well as a fire in the Windsor Castle.

We are just into the second quarter of the year 2020 and as a result of all the suffering and death caused by the COVID-19 virus and the changes in the way we live, I am ready to use the phrase.

When the Kenyan government took the bold step to cancel all international events on Friday March 6, a week before the staging of the Magical Kenya Open, many may have seen it as an overreaction.

When the first case of a patient suffering from the dreaded virus, the very next week was announced, some number crunchers did some modelling and predicted that we would have thousands of cases in Kenya by the end of the first month.

By God's grace and as a result of the quick action taken by the Ministry of Health, we are nowhere near what had been predicted.

Two weeks ago, the USGA announced that the US Open, that was initially scheduled to take place between June 18-21, will now be played from September 17-20. A week later, the Ryder Cup is scheduled to be held.

The only downside to playing these tournaments this year is that they will be played without spectators. World number one golfer, Rory McIlroy, is not all too pleased about playing without spectators.

"A Ryder Cup without fans, it's not a Ryder Cup" he said.

If it were up to McIlroy and some of the other players, it would probably be better if the tournament was played in 2021, if that would guarantee the presence of spectators.

I, however, wonder if it is asking for too much for things to return to normal after just one year. Will we see the same kind of crowds for the Ryder Cup or any other golf tournament after one year?

I am not a behavioural expert and I cannot claim to know how people will react but after going through the lockdowns and after getting used to social distancing, we are bound to continue avoiding crowded areas for a long time to come.

I personally would prefer to watch it on TV with a few friends; unless of course I am invited to referee.

The PGA European Tour are looking to return to action with the British Masters that is scheduled for July 30 to August 2. The US PGA Championship is set for the week after; August 6-9.

Would we be able to pull off the Magical Kenya Open 2020 from August 13-16? If this were to happen, it would probably be the best indication of a return to normalcy; whatever it will be after the dreaded COVID-19 is eventually put under control.

There is absolutely no way this year can be described in any other way other than annus horribilis, but should we be able to host the Magical Kenya Open in August, it will be the best way to start going back to normal in as far as golf is concerned.

With live TV coverage in millions of homes all over the world, it will also be the best way to showcase the opening up of Kenya after months of closure.

Even with the experts warning us that we are not out of the woods yet, I am choosing to focus on our world post the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Magical Kenya Open, with or without spectators, as long as it is televised live, will take some of the sting out of what has otherwise been a scene from a nightmare.

Wang'ombe is the General Manager of Kenya Open Golf Limited



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy plays a chip shot during the first round of the Australian Open. [File]

Tennis

Murray to play in French Open, if it's held

Andy Murray has said that he would "definitely" play in the rescheduled French Open in September, if it is able to take place as planned.

The tennis season has been shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic since last month and will not resume until mid-July at the earliest.

Wimbledon has been cancelled and Roland Garros organisers controversially moved the French Open until September 20-October 4, starting just a week after the end of the US Open, from its usual start date in May.

"I'd definitely play on the day, if it goes ahead," former world number one Murray told CNN.

"I'm a bit skeptical whether it will. I would imagine tennis would be one of the last sports to get back to normality because you've obviously got players, coaches and teams coming from all over the world into one area."

"I'd be surprised if they're back playing sport by September time, but we'll see."

Murray had been due to return from a hip injury at the Miami Open last month.

The 32-year-old Scot had considered retiring before surgery allowed him to make an initial comeback from injury last year, winning his first ATP title since 2017 in Antwerp last October.

"I was training to get ready for that and that was going to be a good test. I was fit and feeling pretty strong," Murray, currently ranked 129th in the world, said.

[AFP]



Boxing

Kenyans mourn former Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Maina

Kenya boxing family is mourning the death of former Commonwealth and Africa Games bantamweight bronze medalist Douglas Maina.

Douglas' death was confirmed yesterday by national 400m record-holder Rose Tata Muya.

"Douglas has been unwell. We took him to Mathari Hospital last month for check up. His wife called me today (Thursday) morning to relay the sad news," Muya told *Standard Sports*.

Efforts to reach Maina's wife for comment were futile as her phone didn't go through.

Maina's achievements

- 1978 bronze All Africa Games in Algiers, Algeria.
- 1978 bronze Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada
- Contested national league for Kenya Defence Forces
- Started his career at Bangladesh Boxing Club in Kariobangi under late coach Eddie 'Papa' Musi.

Maina was a product of the late coach Eddie 'Papa' Musi of Kariobangi, famously known as Bangladesh Boxing Club.

He contested national league for the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) where he was spotted and picked to join national team, the 'Hit Squad'.

Muya, who is also the Heroes and Heroines National Sports Coordinator, was with Maina in the Team Kenya for the 1978 All Africa Games in Algiers and the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton Canada.

Maina, who was known for his snapping deadly right punch, won bronze medals in the two championships.

"He was a gifted boxer. He did well in international tournaments as well as the league," Kenya Professional Boxing Commission (KPBC) President Reuben Ndolo said.

After hanging his gloves, Maina trained as a referee and presided over international bouts in South Africa, Zambia, Malawi and across Africa.

Meanwhile, KPBC has postponed its Commonwealth and Africa title fights to August due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.



Kenya's flyweight boxing champion Douglas Maina in 1978. [File]

Among pugilists who are bracing for belts in their categories at the coming event are Sarah Achieng (lightweight, Commonwealth), Morris Okola (heavy, ABU) and Mwangi Makaveli (light, ABU).

Makaveli is currently stepping up training in Dubai alongside former World Boxing Council women Super Bantamweight champion Fatuma Zarika.

"Zarika will curtain-raise the contest ahead of her third fight title with Yemileth 'Yeimi' Mercado of Mexico later in the year," said Ndolo. **[Ochieng Oyugi]**

Athletics

Diamond League postpones Eugene, Paris meetings

The Diamond League yesterday suspended a further two meetings in June as it continues to adapt the 2020 season calendar in the face of the coronavirus crisis.

In recent weeks, the Wanda Diamond League has been forced to suspend a number of its early-season meetings as a result of health and logistical concerns brought about by the global coronavirus crisis.

Yesterday the series announced the postponement of further meetings in Eugene (scheduled for June 7) and Paris (June 13).

As with previous suspensions, this decision was reached in close consultation with all relevant parties and based on concerns over athlete safety as well as widespread travel restrictions which make it impossible to stage the competitions as planned.

The Bislett Games also announced plans to host an alternative athletics competition, an exhibition event dubbed 'The Impossible Games', on June 11, the original date of this year's Oslo Diamond League meeting.

The concept will see a number of world-class athletes take part in a one-off showpiece event in full observation of Norway's coronavirus regulations and social distancing rules.

The programme is currently set to include a world record attempt from Norwegian hurdles star Karsten Warholm and a long-distance pole vault battle between world record holder Mondo Duplantis and record Diamond League Champion Renaud Lavillenie.

Organisers were nonetheless keen to stress that the full programme is yet to be confirmed and subject to changes.

The hour-long event will be shown live by Norway's public broadcaster NRK, and will be partly financed by the Norwegian National Athletics Association and World Athletics.

"We are delighted to support the event by releasing the funds World Athletics makes to each Diamond League event but with one caveat, which is that the entire amount we are contributing goes to prize money for the athletes competing."

World Athletics president Sebastian Coe

"This promises to be another great night of athletics," said World Athletics president Sebastian Coe. **[World Athletics]**

Basketball. The Zetech University signing is upbeat of winning the premier league title

Why Obunga remains focused on winning titles

The 30-year-old point guard relishes guiding Kenya to Afro-basketball championship title.

By Washington Onyango
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No matter the hardships, losses and heartaches Debra Obunga has suffered in life, she has never thought of quitting.

The Zetech University new signing believes she still has more to offer to the Kenya national women's basketball team, nine years after making her national debut.

She has an enviable determination and focus only longed for by many.

"I have never thought of giving up! I grew up being told by my seniors to always work hard and to keep pushing my limits," said the former KPA guard.

She says her goal is to use her 12 years of experience to help her new-found home, Zetech, win the Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Premier League title.

"Nothing beats the feeling of winning the premier league title. It would be an honor to win my second premier league title, now with Zetech," she said.

The 30-year-old won the premier league title with Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) in 2013 and the women's Division One title during her first stint with Zetech, in 2015.

Born and raised in Kisumu, the first sports she thought of were netball and football.

"I played netball and football while at Arina Primary School. These were the most common sports at that time," she said.

It was not until she joined Kisumu Girls High School in 2004 that her love for basketball was born and blossomed.

"When I joined high school, I decided to try my hand in basketball. I had played netball before so, I told myself that this would be an easy task," she said.

Obunga represented Kisumu Girls in the secondary school games, where they exited the championships at the regional level.

Even though she was a rising star in basketball, Obunga also focused on netball, where she guided her school to the national school games on several occasions.

"With basketball, we did not qualify for the national games. But for netball, we represent Nyanza several times between 2004 and 2008," she said.

For Obunga, however, she decided to focus on one sport after sitting for her Form Four exams. She quit netball and picked up with basketball.

She was called up to the national under-18 basketball team, a feat that saw her attract suitors from the premier league before eventually signing for Kenya College of Accountancy (KCA) University.

In 2011, she signed for NYTA Shimba where she played for one season. She later earned her first call up to the national team.

But was joining KPA in 2013 that saw her win her first title after helping the squad lift the women's premier league title.

Her stint with KPA lasted for one season. She then switched her loyalty to Eagle Wings in 2014 before proceeding to join Zetech University in 2015, where she was instrumental in the team's promotion to the premier league after winning the Division One title in 2017.

Debra Atieno Obunga

- Age-30 years
- Position-Point Guard
- Current Club-Zetech University
- Achievements
- KBF Womens Premier League champion 2013
- KBF Women's Division One champion 2015

She then returned to KPA in 2018, played for two seasons before returning to Zetech University this year.

She picks last year as her best moment with the national team where Kenya narrowly missed the All Africa Games solitary ticket after losing to Egypt in the final.

"We were having a good game and enjoying ourselves in Uganda until we lost to Egypt in the final. We were almost there but we were unlucky," she said.

Obunga has, however, promised to come back stronger especially after losing in both the Afro Basketball championships in Dakar (with the national team) and the premier league title (with KPA).

"My goal is to return stronger both for the club and national team. I am not giving up yet on winning a championship with the national team," she said.

"We reached the final last year and learnt our lessons. I believe with good preparations and support, we can win titles for Kenya."

Obunga, who envies her national teammate Hildah Indasi. After she's done with playing, Obunga would want to be a trainer and possibly, a national team coach.

And to upcoming players who wish to play for the women's national team, she emphasises on hard work, self-belief and God.

"You first need to in God. Believe in yourself because the responsibility of playing for the national team comes with the burden of representing all Kenyans. Hard work and discipline follows and step by step, you will get there," she said.



Zetech University's Debora Obunga. [Jonah Onyango, Standard]

Kenyan Premier League. Authorities should consider cluster testing, camping and hosting matches in neutral venues

Lockdown: Best time to showcase our Premier League

Hezbon Mogambi



In a commendable move, the Ministry of Sports has initiated a process to cushion footballers in the wake of Covid-19 as seen in a call for official contact information of footballers playing in key Kenyan leagues. While it is not yet clear whether the players will get money transfers or food packages- the move by the Ministry is timely especially bearing in mind the financial struggles most football clubs have been through in recent times. The ministry however, can do more than just handing fish to the sector. While the fish is a welcome relief to thousands of players, many are at home bored, unfit and itching to get back to what they love most. A little support from the government can facilitate a smooth completion of the remaining fixtures especially in the Kenyan Premier League during this partial lockdown.

In the beginning of April, President Uhuru gave out Sh100million to artists to entertain Kenyans during these tough times through TV, Radio and Internet - some artists have done well since the announcement. The source of the funds was the Sport, Arts and Social Development Fund. Nobody can deny that sports and football in particular is a source of premium entertainment for millions of Kenyans.

With a TV production partner already, the Kenyan Premier League has an opportunity to reach millions of Kenyans during this period of staying at home and without the usual competition from other alternative leagues across the world. Both the corporate CEO and marketing guru who have been reading about the league off the sponsorship proposals and newspapers now are at home and have an opportunity to watch and evaluate the potential return on investment of our game to their business were they to invest in it.

Cluster testing and Camping

Coronavirus is dangerous and anyone who downplays it does so at their own peril. But being a virus, it is a reality that the world has now moved on to learn how to live with and thrive - at least till a vaccine is discovered. While football is a contact sport and goes against the gospel of social distancing - cluster testing and disciplined self-isolation through camping of Premier league players and such key stakeholders as referees, production crews can significantly minimize chances of infection. Resuming closed door games can serve triple functions of introducing the game to masses across Kenya -most of whom have stayed away from the game, resuscitating the hospitality industry as well as giving premium entertainment to Kenyans in these gloomy times.

The players and the key stakeholders needed to pull closed door games will be less than 700 in number. With universities and major hotels closed, affordable accommodation arrangements can be made. With camping, three games per week is a tough but not an impossible schedule to pull through for clubs- which means that the remaining fixtures will be done in slightly over a month's time.



Sofapaka's Sunday Sebastine (left) and John Kago of Ulinzi Stars during their KPL match at Kenyatta Stadium, Machakos, on February 29. [Jonah Onyango, Standard]

Neutral Venues

With our limited infrastructure that has seen us twice awarded and twice denied opportunities to host CHAN coupled with near empty stands during matches, no team can solidly claim home advantage if they played home matches away from home. With a sizeable number of Premier league clubs coming from Nairobi and the Western regions of Kenya, clustering these teams into two and ensuring clubs within these locations face each for their remaining fixtures first can reduce the travel and accommodation costs.

Ruaraka and Kasarani stadium can serve as neutral game venues to minimize movement and maximize on production logistics for Nairobi-based clubs with Kisumu or Kakamega for western based teams. Ulinzi, Zoo Kericho and Bandari can join either the western or Nairobi clusters. New Schedules can be planned in such a way that allows maximum number of games to be televised or streamed online to entertain Kenyans.

Covid-19 has left many sectors re-evaluating and reflecting on their models of doing business. Even as we seek solutions to the election impasse at the federation, may this pandemic and the government intervention to cushion footballers, be a challenge to football stakeholders on the need to grow the sport so that the issue at hand could have been how much is Kenyan football giving towards combating covid-19 as is the case in other countries.

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Coronavirus

Bundesliga secures deals with broadcasters

The Bundesliga has secured agreements with rights holder Sky and all but one broadcaster for payments for the rest of the 2019/2020 season that will help keep clubs afloat amid the coronavirus pandemic, German Football League (DFL) CEO Christian Seifert yesterday.

The Bundesliga has been suspended since mid-March due to the outbreak of the new coronavirus, which has infected more than 148,000 and killed over 5,000 people in Germany. A restart is expected some time in May but it is up to the government to give the green light.

"If we should start on May 9, we are ready. If it is later we will be ready again," Seifert said, adding that the deal with broadcasters made sure clubs would have enough liquidity until June 30 and once the season got under way. Should the season be abandoned they would have to pay back some of the amount, he said.

"For us what is decisive is what the politicians will decide. It is not for us to decide when," Seifert said on a potential restart date.

Germany has the fifth highest COVID-19 caseload behind the United States, Spain, Italy and France, but has kept fatalities down thanks to early and extensive testing.

Regional leaders in Bavaria and North Rhine Westphalia said this week it was possible for the league to resume without spectators after May 9 and under strict health and safety conditions.

The League has warned that many clubs in the first and second divisions faced an uncertain financial future and several would be in an "existence-threatening" situation if play did not resume by June.

[Reuters]

FKF Elections



Nicholas Musonye, former Secretary-General of Cecafa. [Jonah Onyango]

Ex- Cecafa Secretary Musonye opens up on FKF polls bid

Former Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (Cecafa) General Secretary Nicholas Musonye admits he is weighing up prospects whether to contest for the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) presidency in the stalled elections.

This is after a section of former footballers urged Musonye, who recently stepped down as the regional body's boss after two decades in charge, to vie for the top seat.

In an interview with *Standard Sports* yesterday, the 55-year-old former sports journalist-turned football administrator could join ex-FKF supremo Sam Nyamweya in the race to replace Nick Mwendwa.

"People have the right to propose who they want to propose, but I will make the decision at the right time when the environment is conducive for everybody. Right now, we are dealing with coronavirus as a country. Football politics will be discussed at the most appropriate time, and that will be when we are done with this mess. You cannot run for a post when people are dying or are in danger," said Musonye.

"But it's something that I can consider and I will put into perspective the proposals from the stakeholders. I've read what people have said and I will come up with my clear position at the appropriate time. The most important thing right now is to support the government in the fight against Covid-19. So that even if I become the FKF president I will still have players. I don't want to be a president without people to lead."

He added: "We are praying and hoping that normalcy will return soon so that we can start talking about football politics. I can't talk about football politics now when people are in danger. I want to follow the government's directive."

Asked if he will shelve his initial ambitions to vie for the 2022 Kakamega gubernatorial seat, Musonye categorically said: "When I take a position I stick to it. But there is no relationship between the Kakamega governorship race and FKF presidency. The governorships elections is in 2022, right?"

[Rodgers Eshitemi]

FKF elections crisis

- The exercise has twice been nullified by the Sports Disputes Tribunal after FKF was found to have inserted a clause in its Electoral Code 202 that ensured most the incumbents returned unopposed. FKF also ran foul of Fifa's Standard Electoral Code.

Basketball. National and Zetech guard focused on titles, Pg.38

Sports



RUGBY. EX-SEVENS COACH PAUL MURUNGA WON'T FORGET HOW YOUNGSTERS SAVED KENYA'S IRB STATUS, PG 37

The Standard

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FKF crisis. Federation has pleaded with Fifa again for more time

Why Mwendwa, FKF NEC should pack and go

Stakeholders want Fifa to constitute a Normalisation Committee to save Harambee Stars.

By Robin Toskin
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Fifa should constitute a Normalisation Committee immediately to save Kenya from being ejected from the 2022 World Cup qualifiers after Football Kenya Federation (FKF) defaulted in paying former coach Adel Amrouche Sh109million arbitral award, former AFC Leopards chairman Alex ole Magelo has said.

Also calling for FKF NEC's immediate departure was Bandari FC Board of Trustees member Twaha Mbarak, who said Harambee Stars players will pay with their dreams of playing at the World Cup for individuals' mistakes.

The two leaders were reacting to the imminent removal of Harambee Stars from the Qatar 2022 World Cup qualifiers after failing to meet the deadline yesterday.

Standard Sports has learnt that on April 20 FKF, citing the COVID-19 pandemic, asked Fifa for more time to comply with Court of Arbitration for Sport's directive to pay Amrouche.

Magelo, who is also a former Nairobi County Assembly speaker said Mwendwa acted unilaterally and ended up mismanaging Amrouche's case, which has left Harambee Stars on the verge of exiting 2022 Fifa World Cup qualifiers without kicking a ball.

"What Nick should do, with immediate effect, is to pack, handover to a Normalisation Committee and go," Magelo said.

He added: "Nick never involved the stakeholders over Adel Amrouche's issue. When I asked him to call stakeholders so that we deliberate on what to do with Amrouche and approaching government in a more dignified manner, he went playing around giving the government ultimatums and threatening Kenyans that oh, we are going to be thrown out of the World Cup."



Harambee Stars players Victor Wanyama and Michael Olunga when the team arrived from Egypt on November 16 last year. [FKF Media]





Bandari FC Board of Trustees member Twaha Mbaraka. [File]

"Kicking Harambee Stars out the Fifa World Cup is hard to contemplate. We kindly request that Fifa appoints a Normalization Committee comprising men and women of integrity to right the wrongs committed by FKF."

Alex ole Magelo, former AFC Leopards chairman

"Kicking Harambee Stars out of the Fifa World Cup is hard to contemplate, given it an individual's mistake. Notwithstanding that Fifa officer Veron Mosengo-Omba errored in his judgment to insist that Nick stays in office despite the Tribunal's ruling that his term was over, we respect Fifa all the same.

"Fifa should reciprocate and immediately appoint a normalisation Committee comprising men and women of integrity and credible in the management of football in this country."

Twaha said football is a peoples' game yet, unfortunately, Kenya finds itself in a precarious position because of the actions of an individual.

"We demand that Nick Mwendwa and his executive, which the Sports Disputes Tribunal confirmed their term of office has ended should handover the institution to a Normalisation Committee. The national football team carries the hopes and aspirations of a country. Therefore, the Kenyan government should consult, as a matter of urgency, with Fifa to ensure Harambee Star are not thrown out," Twaha said.

"The manner in which they handled Amrouche's case demonstrates why they were wrong the people at the federation in the first place. The government, through the Sports Ministry should move to secure the national football team's space in the 2022 Fifa World Cup qualifiers," Twaha said.

FKF violations against the Sports Act 2013, Sports Registrar's Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Standard Electoral Code

•The Standard FIFA Electoral Code, approved by the FIFA member committee, are a guide for the electoral code that every member association is required to draw up. The second paragraph of the preamble requires FIFA members to perfect it so as to ensure the elections are transparent and democratic;

•The Sports Act, 2013, is an act of Parliament to harness sports for development, encourage and promote drug free sports and recreation; to provide for the establishment of sports institutions, facilities, administration and management of sports in the country, and for connected purposes;

•The Sports (Registrar) Regulations, 2016, are established vide Legal Notice No. 35 (i) In exercise of the powers conferred by section 72 of the Sports Act, 2013, the Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and the

•Acts makes the following Regulations

Violation	Applicable provisions contravened
Stamid rems by appointing ineligible members of Electoral Board (**Prof Ezekiel Mamboleo**)	**Article 4 (2) of FIFA Standard Electoral Code** The members of the Electoral Committee are not allowed to serve for two consecutive terms - (Prof Mamboleo chaired 2016 board that elected Mwendwa)
Staying in office beyond term	**2nd Schedule of Sports Act and FKF Constitution** 6 (1) [...] persons elected as officials (term of shall consequently hold office as follows- (i) the chairperson shall hold office for a term not exceeding four years... (ii) any other official shall hold office for a term not exceeding four years...
Discriminating against clubs participating in FIFA-sanctioned leagues and competitions. (Sports Disputes Tribunal confirmed as such on March 17, 2020)	**2nd Schedule of Sports Act** (g) election of officials at national, branch and sub-branch levels shall be done directly and only registered club members are entitled to vote at those elections (2) elections shall be held in accordance with the general principles for the electoral system as stipulated in Article 81 of the Constitution;
Putting up criteria for elections that locks out opposition in contravention of Statutes and Laws of Kenya. (Sports Disputes Tribunal confirmed as such on March 17, 2020)	**Paragraph 6 of the Second Schedule to the Sports Act 2013 as read with Article 81 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010** **Article 19 of FIFA Code of Ethics:** ...A conflict of interest arises if a person bound by this Code has, or appears to have, secondary interests that could influence his ability to perform his duties with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Secondary interests include, but are not limited to, gaining any possible advantage for the persons bound by this Code themselves, or related parties as defined in this Code
Failure to account for Sh244 million from Sports Fund. (FKF diverted the monies to fund Stable 23 matches among other unauthorised spending contained in documents submitted to Sports Ministry)	**Article 41 (3) (d) of Public Finance Management Act 2012 (amended 2015):** b. ensure that public funds entrusted to them care are properly safeguarded and are applied for purposes for only which they were intended and appropriated by the National Assembly; d. manage control and ensure that policies are carried out efficiently and wastage of public funds is eliminated; **Article 26 (1) (2) of FIFA Code of Ethics:** 1. Persons bound by this Code shall not misappropriate or misuse funds of FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues or clubs, whether directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, third parties. 2. Persons bound by this Code shall refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of a breach of this article.
Mismanagement of Sh525 million EM equipment money. (FKF Traded with a UK based company MTI Media Group Ltd that has since gone down. Unclear if it will ever recover the monies)	**Article 26 (1) (2) of FIFA Code of Ethics:** 1. Persons bound by this Code shall not misappropriate or misuse funds of FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues or clubs, whether directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, third parties. 2. Persons bound by this Code shall refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of a breach of this article.
Mismanagement of Adel Amrouche case, spending Sh80.3 million on legal fees and losing case twice. (Adel wanted staggered payment. FKF proceeded with case).	**Article 26 (1) (2) of FIFA Code of Ethics:** 1. Persons bound by this Code shall not misappropriate or misuse funds of FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues or clubs, whether directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, third parties. 2. Persons bound by this Code shall refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of a breach of this article.
Mismanagement of Sh250,000 per player for Tanzania winning bonus. (Despite receiving Sh30Mn, Sh20m from Betin, Sh2mn from Cal - Stars players yet to receive winning bonuses)	**Article 26 (1) (2) of FIFA Code of Ethics:** 1. Persons bound by this Code shall not misappropriate or misuse funds of FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues or clubs, whether directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, third parties. 2. Persons bound by this Code shall refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of a breach of this article.
FKF-Betin AFCON promotion. Did Fifa sanction this? If so, where are documents? Have FKF and Betin disclosed how much was raised from the campaign?	Article 26 (3) of FIFA Code of Ethics: Persons bound by this Code shall be forbidden from participating in, either directly or indirectly, betting, gambling, lotteries or similar events or transactions related to football matches or competitions and/or any related football activities.
Diverting Gok funds to purposes different from what they were disbursed for without prior approval (Sh34mn/Betin for AFCON finals in Egypt)	**Article 41 (3) (d) of Public Finance Management Act 2012 (amended 2015):** b. ensure that public funds entrusted to them care are properly safeguarded and are applied for purposes for only which they were intended and appropriated by the National Assembly; d. manage control and ensure that policies are carried out efficiently and wastage of public funds is eliminated;
With the mistakes listed above, FKF has put Kenya on the path of facing FIFA sanctions because the world governing body does not take violation of its electoral code lightly.	
"Failure by the association to apply the principles of this code shall be considered a serious violation of Article 13 of the FIFA Statutes and shall lead to consequences described in Article 14 of the FIFA Statutes or the disciplinary measures provided for under Article 15 of the FIFA Statutes," states paragraph (3) of the section 6(2) of the FIFA Standard Electoral Code (FIFA Standard Electoral Code)	

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THE ONLY WAY TO GET A LIFE

PULSE

ONLY WITH THE The Standard

Friday, April 24, 2020 Pullout Section B

CHOKE THA BLOCK

As the corona pandemic continues to spread its tentacles despite hard-hitting restrictions, what started out looking like a disease in a faraway land has now established a stranglehold in your neighbourhood, P12-13

Model: Sonia Pinto
Age: 24
Hobbies: Modelling and travelling

Best shot

BRIGHTER DAYS

Song: Brighter Days

Artiste: Sauti Sol x Soweto Gospel Choir

Video: Uncle Scrooch/Ofentse Mwase Films

Audio: Mboks/Fancy Fingers/ Michael Manitshana

Rating: 7/10

This is a production with great indoor shots that capture intimate moments, warmth, African prints, emotions and depth. Sauti Sol arrive in a classic Ford, take their music equipment into a studio, where they are joined by the Sowetans. The rest of the video is weaving in all the elements that make a great video. The studio allows for lighting, smoke machines, wide and close-up angles and other scenes, like the band chatting over the consoles, or the rehearsals with the choir.

The song is super timely for the current times where people need hope more than anything else. It talks about individual challenges that befell humans, but the belief that things will eventually be better the following day. The choir adds depth and more life to the song, with the South African feel giving it a more continental vibe. According to Fancy Fingers, the song started getting life in 2017. Universal Music Africa coming through here. What a bright day!



PULSE RATE



Bitter Sweet High Holiday

This year, all of April is 4/20, and the cannabis community had big plans to blaze up together all month long. Marijuana's high holiday arrived on Monday, and in a world without coronavirus, millions would have gathered for a massive smoke-out. Instead, the stay-at-home orders held, reducing it to an online replica.

However, that did not deter the community, including our favourite celebrities who took their 4/20 festivities online to mark the rise of legalisation and celebrate the cannabis culture. There were heaps of Zoom hangouts and virtual smoking sessions to choose from. Wiz Khalifa, Snoop Dogg and Cypress Hill were among the thousands who joined the livestreamed DJ set and smoke-in seshe for the release of Dr Dre's seminal debut album, *The Chronic*.

Jim Jones, hosted Zoom smoke-outs, and was joined by comedian and actor Kevin Hart and Jadakiss.

4/20, the movie also debuted on 4/20, naturally. The film, made on a micro-budget and shot on Vimeo, weaves intersecting storylines around a local cannabis dispensary.

This year, the perennial stoner holiday had even greater significance seeing as the year is 2020.

Wairimu Nyingi

keep it reel

BIRDS OF PREY (AND THE FANTABULOUS EMANCIPATION OF ONE HARLEY QUINN)

Cast: Margot Robbie, Rosie Perez, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ali Wong, Bojana Novakovic, Charlene Amoia, Chris Messina, Dana Lee, David Bianchi, David Ury, Derek Wilson, Dominic Pace, Ella Jay Basco

Director: Cathy Yan

Genre: Action, Adventure, Crime

Rating: 6/10

Birds of Prey is a twisted tale told by Harley herself as only Harley can tell it. When Gotham's most nefariously narcissistic villain, Roman Sionis, and his zealous right-hand, Zsasz, put a target on a young girl named Cass, the city is turned upside down looking for her. Harley Quinn teams up with superheroes Black Canary, Huntress and Renee Montoya to rescue the girl.

Thumbs up:

Pretty much everyone is chaotic evil, including the main character. Ewan McGregor has some amusing one-liners. It is extremely fun, action-packed and hilarious. Think 'Kill Bill' or 'John Wick'-meets-'Deadpool'. What makes the film enjoyable is it tells a Gotham story without having to tell the Gotham story.

Thumbs down:

While Margot Robbie is a good Harley Quinn, the character was not given enough arc. From the title, this film is a bit of a mess. It uses narrative and disjointed clips of film to attempt to put the story in place and time. Harley Quinn was quirky in 'Suicide Squad'. She was odd, out there, and on the edge of crazy. This film was essentially supposed to give us the backstory of Ms Quinn. It was also a way to introduce other characters, the Birds of Prey. It fails at both.

Verdict:

This is not a 10, but certainly nowhere near a 1.



RATING BAROMETER
1-2: Not worth your time
3-4: Needs work
5: Average
6-7: Good
8-10: Excellent

N.B: The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily those of Pulse magazine.

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ON SPOT

Afreakan Queen

International singer KIMANI, formerly Victoria Kimani, is one of the most skilful exports from the 254, and with the build-up to her third studio album 'Afreaka', which drops today, the aesthete found time to chat with ALFAYO ONYANGO about the album, her bittersweet relationship with Kenya, her love life and more



Pulse: Heading into your third studio album, what does it feel like?

Kimani: It's surreal, a little numb because pulling this one together was extremely rough. Last year, I recorded two albums, this is the first of the two to be released. It also feels like an extreme advancement in terms of my sound and how I've evolved.

P: What can we expect from *Afreaka* after the successes of *Safari* and *Afropolitan?*

K: *Afreaka* is a joint album with epic platinum-selling producer 1$T, originally from Liberia, Post Malone, Ariana Grande, Migos, 21 Savage, Iggy Azalea just to name a few. So from a production standpoint, it provides a departure from your typical Afro-pop sound into a wave that I didn't know existed until we finally collaborated; it's a global vibe and I am way more savvy with my song writing as well, it's just different. You can hear the growth.

P: With a vast record of collaborations, what inspired picking Boutross, Ferre Gola and FKi 1$T?

K: I wanted the project to be simple; all about the music, not a fame game or an overthought for additional hype. This time we selected exactly who would provide what the project was missing musically on its own. Boutross' flow is unmatched on the song we have together, called *Kumi Kumi* and Ferre Gola provides the perfect Francophone touch with a little extra soul in his delivery in the title track, *Afreaka*.

P: Your sample game has always been on fire. Is it important to you to pay homage to your inspirers, or what's that about?

K: It's very important to pay homage yes, but I've always been fascinated with the Refix /Remix and Mixtape/Free Riddim culture. Some songs need to never die, which is a train of thought that most great artistes have.

P: How did it feel to be picked to be the brand ambassador of Maybelline, an international beauty line?

K: It was great. Makeup is something that has always been a part of my life, so to work alongside a brand like Maybelline taught me a lot. Moving around with them during Fashion week in New York was also extremely memorable.

P: How do you manage to stay so fresh with your style and image?

K: At the core of everything deep down is the kid – me sitting in my closet cutting up fabrics and gluing things that don't belong together, drawing full outfits on paper cut-out models, envisioning and sometimes creating the fashion items that I don't have. Also, I get bored with looks quickly, almost as soon as I have tried it once (giggles) so that's my happy place; creating new vibes.

P: Your entrepreneurism is another overlooked aspect. How have Kimani Couture and Kimani braids worked out so far?

K: So far, so great! Anyone who knows me knows that I love hair, and braids are just another way that I get to experiment with unique styles. We've already sold out on our first shipment and onto our second one since our launch took place in January.

P: Talk about changing your name from Victoria Kimani to just Kimani ...

K: More like a decolonisation of my name.

P: Is Kimani looking to settle down soon in her love life?

K: Yep! As soon as you get her a man!

P: You've always been vocal about the undervaluing of Kenyan artistes and their efforts; what is your current stand?

K: Well, I'm not sure to be honest. I stopped concerning myself with what wasn't going right and started focusing on what is, so I'm sort of in my own world living in my bubble – but I think it's clear with my lack of involvement in all festivals. Maybe it's not as noticeable when I'm out of the country doing the same thing that I don't really get to do at home. Same ol' Lupita story, right?

P: Do you feel like you have anything to prove so far in your career as a musician?

K: If I do, it's a point – or several – to prove to myself.

P: What do you want your legacy to be?

K: Timeless music and art. Unapologetic and empowering views, and giving back to those in need.

Who's on Kimani's playlist right now?

- ThAfreaka Album by Kimani x 1$T
- Partynextdoor
- Ari Lennox
- Saint Jhn
- Jhene Aiko
- Total Reggae Mix (old school tunes)
- City Girls
- The Weeknd

BIG DEAL

Ethic Vs Ethics

The never-ending ethical question around gengetone lyrics is back. This time, it's over the latest video from Ethic that Dr Ezekiel Mutua says normalises crime, and as MKALA MWAGHESHA discovered, the group's management seems to concur

Soko is despicable and should be condemned by all right thinking people.

That's the verdict, according to Ezekiel Mutua, the CEO of the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB).

And no, an apology won't be enough – the boys should pay a fine of Sh100,000 or face a five-year jail term for their repeat offence.

"Now listen guys, an apology won't just wash. You will have to face the full force of the law as provided for in the Films and Stage Plays Act Cap 222 of the Laws of Kenya," Dr Mutua wrote on his Facebook page, adding that only the current Covid-19 situation has lessened the punishment.

According to Kenya's foremost moral cop, whose mission on his Twitter bio is to 'protect children from exposure to harmful content', the popular group, made up of Rekles, Swat, Zilla and Seska, is normalising criminal acts in the pursuit of making hits.

"Do these perverted producers have children? How does a sane adult try to normalise rape, prostitution or paedophilia in the name of gengetone hits? The video *Soko* by Ethic is despicable immorality that should be condemned by all right-thinking people," he tweeted earlier this week, adding to his many tweets through the years condemning the trending genre.

He then re-posted a video shared by veteran producer Tedd Josiah expressing disgust at gengetone producers and lyrics that point to rape, warning them that *"mnachoma picha"* (you're making the industry look bad) at a time when efforts are being made to catch the eye of the government.

All this happened hours before the offending video was pulled down from YouTube.

It's a familiar script for Ethic.

When they released *Tarimbo* in November last year, there was so much heat regarding the content of the song, which many felt glorified rape, that the video was pulled down. The group apologised.

"As Ethic Entertainment, we are truly remorseful for any dolour caused by the lyrics to our single, and for every single person that was triggered to a displeasing memory or emotion by it, receive our sincere apologies. Rest assured that no disrespect was intended," the group said.

Despite this, the video is still on the group's official YouTube page and stands at 1.3 million views.

'Pulse' reached out to the group's management, AI Records on Monday evening, an hour before Ethic posted an apology.

"Thank you. I am in receipt of your email and your comments have been noted," Mike Andrews, the director at AI Records wrote back to us. "The matter is under full discussion with Ethic and we will respond tomorrow."

On Tuesday, they did.

According to Mike, Ethic's action (to go ahead with the song) is contrary to their contractual obligations.

"You must get the boys to get details from them and the producer, Motif," he explained.

He went further to elaborate that when *Tarimbo* got censure from Mutua, they held discussions with the KFCB and agreed that there was no place for "bad lyrics".

"When they released the audio *(Soko)* some time back, we advised them to change the lyrics. We are also shocked that they went ahead to do the video without reference to us," said Mike, who explained that AI Records primarily works on the distribution of music, not so much on production.

So was the apology released after *Tarimbo* even sincere?

"That apology was meant. Sam (general manager) and I agreed that bad lyrics are not condoned," he said.

Ethic's latest apology, though different, sounds familiar, too.

"We owe an apology to our fans who have been nothing but supportive throughout our journey," the apology read, and went on to explain the reason for pulling down the video and promising not to repost it.

"Over and above, we sincerely apologise and we are working to release better music content in the future."

This was quite a climb-down from an earlier response to people who questioned the lyrics.

"People interpret lyrics however they aim to. If that's what you interpreted it as from listening to the lyrics, then you should evaluate yourself," was Ethic's initial response to a tweet by @BravinYuri.

That gengetone splits opinion is not in doubt. Whether it's the artistry, the lyrics, the quality of the videos or the context, many dismiss the genre – which has been around since 2017 – as a passing cloud. But there is a group that dances to the music every time it plays in clubs, with the artistes' quick turnaround and use of popular phrases to make mega hits striking a chord with fans.

Despite there being tens of gengetone groups that pop up, Ethic has got quite the bashing from Mutua and netizens. Their lyrics, like those of many other groups like theirs, speak of smoking weed and having sex in ever-changing sheng, with X-rated videos hammering the point home.

Yet, Ethic continues to grow in popularity. It has 230,000-plus YouTube subscribers and more than 18,000 followers on Twitter.



Dr Ezekiel Mutua

PARTY SCENE

Keeping the beat on lockdown

The party scene has quickly adapted to travel restrictions, curfews and lockdowns across the world, and as PERIS WAMBUGU shows, there are still 'bashes' to look forward to this weekend



Staying at home maybe the new normal, but we can thank celebrities for keeping us entertained through all this.

A few weeks into a world on lockdown and it is no longer news that they are using social media platforms to keep their fans entertained; anything from dropping scheduled albums to the new usual, holding concerts online. A few online 'battles' have also been held.

The One World Concert, which took place this past weekend, was one such event. Dubbed 'Together At Home', the concert was held to applaud our frontline health workers who are doing their level best to help curb the spread of the pandemic.

Lady Gaga, Demi Lovato, Billie Eilish were some of the notable names to perform at the much hyped concert.

Locally, DJs are bringing the party to your doorstep by holding live sets that are available on all platforms. Some of the DJs who have been constant in doing this since the pandemic broke out are Stylez, Mfalme, and Crème De La Crème alongside a host of other household names.

In case you are wondering what to do while staying home, then tuning in to some of these free live shows is the way to go.

KIMANI

As sultry songstress Victoria Kimani prepares to drop her much-anticipated album, *Afreaka* later today live on all platforms, she gave her fans a tease of what to expect.

While live streaming during her 4/20 concert on Monday, she performed some of the new songs from her album.

Kimani, who is also the CEO of her own hairline company Kimani Luxury Braid, joins the growing list of artistes who have dropped their albums online, including Nyashinski, whose performance and album launch was an exemplary success.

Snoop Dogg also did a live set on Instagram as he celebrated 4/20, while also thanking the heroic frontline workers who have been working tirelessly during the pandemic.

LINDSAY ELL

Country music lovers will have something to look forward to on Sunday night. Canadian country music singer, songwriter and guitarist Lindsay Ell will be hosting a virtual Facebook Live concert at 7pm. This is to celebrate the close of the Child Abuse Prevention Month.

TWITCH

Amazon-owned Twitch, the world's leading live streaming platform for gamers, will be having a free virtual music festival tomorrow. Pop bands like Hanson, Flora Cash and Israeli singer Netta will be performing.

VIRTUAL PROM NIGHT

The month of May will start on a high as Southern California students will be treated to a virtual prom night on the first day of next month. iHeartMedia Los Angeles FM will be live as the event goes down on YouTube. DJ sets will feature those from Joe Jonas, Dilion and a special guest appearance from Lauv, a celebrated American singer and songwriter.

EVA LONGORIA AND LATIN MUSIC STARS

May 2 will see Latin artistes team up for actress, entrepreneur and model Eva Longoria's virtual Cinco De Mayo celebration. The celebration will feature artistes Luis Fonsi, J Balvin and Dianne Guerrero among other familiar faces. The concert will stream live on Facebook Live, YouTube, Twitch, Twitter, iHeart Latino radio stations, as well as on other social media platforms.

TRENDS

PHOTOS: COURTESY

WITH ESTHER MUCHENE









MASKED

No one in a million years would ever have guessed that surgical masks would one day be a fashion symbol. Well, look at us now in the middle of this coronavirus pandemic where covering your face is not an option. Becoming a part of what we wear, it's impossible to expect designers to turn a blind eye when they sense opportunity. And they have! Masks are now a form of expression, as fate forces us to redefine our style and incorporate them in our daily lives. Hate them or love them, there's a way around them.

FASHION NEWS

PHOTOS: COURTESY

WITH PERIS WAMBUGU

GWYNETH'S FASHIONABLE CAUSE

American actress, singer, author and businesswoman Gwyneth Paltrow is using fashion for good during this trying time as we try to flatten the curve with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The award-winning lass told her seven million followers on Instagram that she would be auctioning the dress she wore to the Oscars in 2000. The funds raised will go towards helping out with relief efforts following this pandemic.

She joins the all-in challenge, an initiative that provides food to those in need. Paltrow joins the likes of Madonna, Ciara and Russell Wilson.

The hand-beaded Calvin Klein dress started off at a Sh625,000 bid and is set to go even higher with the auction ending in seven days.







Smitta Smitten



SCENE @

self-isolation

Minesh Hema, it turns out, is a man ahead of his time. Corona finally arrives in Kenya on March, Thursday the 12th, 2020. Soon, schools close, then pubs and churches; and other offices tell their staff to go and "work from home..." Then a dusk-to-dawn curfew is imposed across the country - before the capital city, 'King's Landing', is locked to inter-county travel.

The Army of the Dead continues its grim march across the Earth, and on the big screen in his office, Minesh Hema, watches the body count pile up, first in Italy, then in Spain, then now in the USA.

He has never been curious about travelling anywhere in his life.

'Don't you ever want to go back to India and see our Origins, Minesh?' his twin sister, Meena, once asked him, on her once-every-five-years X-mas visits to Kenya, since she was going to New Delhi in the New Year.

"I would love to go to India," Minesh had startled his sister; "...but only if I can be back in time for dinner here at home!"

BC- BEFORE CORONA: Minesh Hema had never slept outside of their old Parklands bungalow, not once, since the day he'd been born at nearby MP Shah hospital.

AD - AFTER DISEASE: he thinks he'll move out, maybe get married? Maybe even to an African, like his rather pretty PA Monica Kamute, and why ever not?

His caste-iron mother will say that it will kill her, that he wants to drive her to the grave. But he knows her. She is a vampire! She plans to Live Forever in that rickety ole bungalow in Parklands.

Meanwhile, he lives in spartan self-quarantine in his office, sleeping on a mattress and duvet on the floor.

He orders three pizza *peri peris*, with plenty of *pili pili* from Glovo App daily at lunchtime - the masked and armed security guard at the gate letting the regular delivery dude in - and eats them at 7am, 1pm and 7pm sharp daily.

For drink, there's the hot water in the dispenser, which he slowly sips, because it is hot.

And he watches both the local and the international news obsessively, getting no FAKE news from outside, because he is not on social media, or any WhatsApp chat groups.

Corona, corona, corona, corona, corona, corona, corona, corona, 24/7/365 Wall-to-Wall coverage of Covid-19 across channels.

Minesh Hema also washes his hands manically, sanitises them obsessively, sees his shirt getting dirty, feels his underwear getting damp, and takes to staying in his birthday suits – naked.

He has shed off yet another layer of germ-clinger, and after a few days in the nude, he no longer feels cold.

"Muhindi wako yuko uchi," the peri peri delivery dude complains to the security guard, who just shrugs.

"Ni ka hii corona imefanya a-chizi!"

Every three days, he does call his mother, and she is hilariously hysterical. On the last call, she started screaming something about his asthma. 'Soree maan, aaee lav yoo lekin aaee gotta go,' he cuts her off, speaking in Hinglish (Hindi + English), and hangs up.

3:53am, Sunday, April 19th, 2020.

Minesh Hema has just woken up from a disturbed dream where he was playing water polo in a swimming pool, when a mad mermaid grabbed his ankles, dragging him into the water. Her features are wavy in the water, but the mermaid pulling him down is Monica, but instead of legs, she has glowing green fins.

"I'm drowning," he keeps trying to say, but his words turn into bubbles as she yanks him deeper under H_2O.

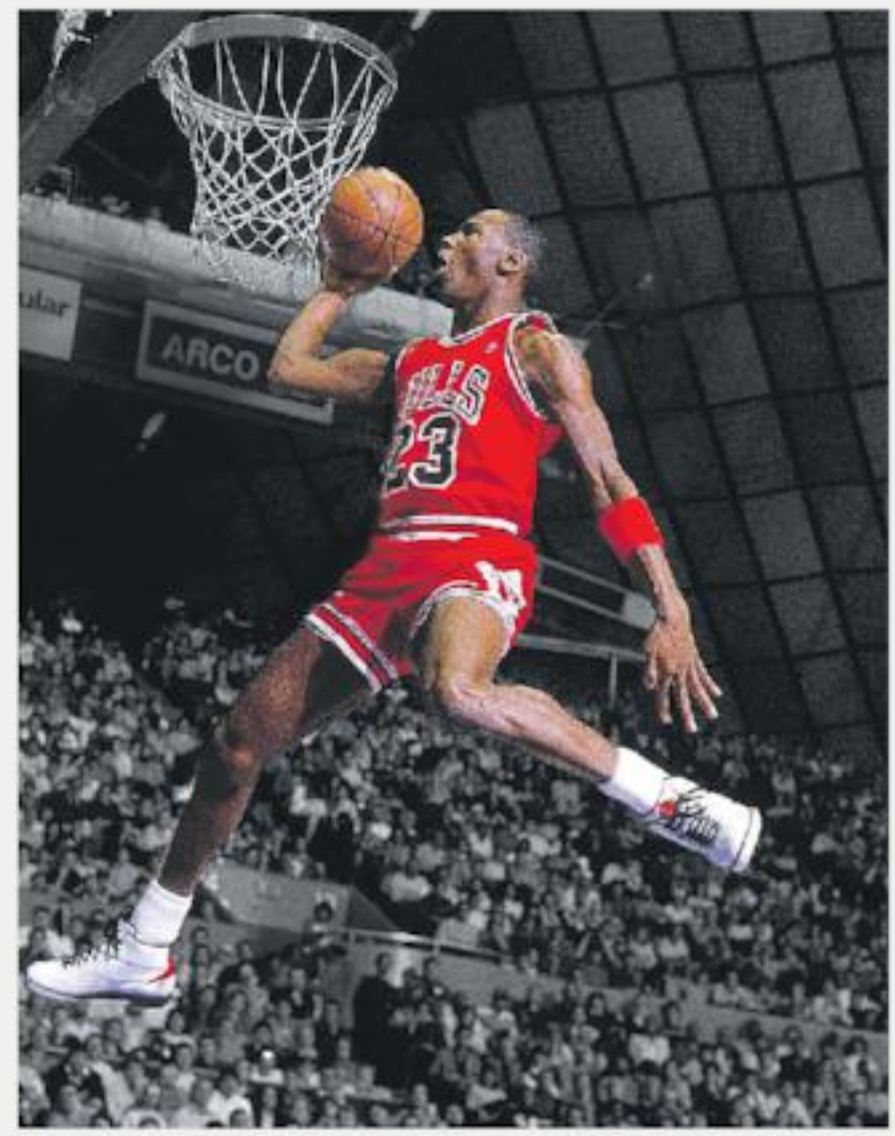
Minesh wakes up with a tightness in his chest! He reaches for the TV remote control and switches the channel from some HOTdog eating contest on one channel (these being the weird kind of 'sports' that can be done at home) to BBC; and begins a wheeze that turns into a tight throat squeeze. When he looks up from his elbow, the TV casting strange phosphorescent colours across his white office wall, channel has self-switched (on Reminder) to a movie called *Flight 192 aka Turbulence,* with a cheesy song that goes 'crazy in love' and an actress called Racy Lacey (who does look like she just retained the name from former blue movies that feature racy lace and lingerie), and who ends up dead on a beach after attempting to set up a married mogul for sexual assault, unless he gives her a million dollars.

A cheap plot. A prolonged cough. hest pains. Difficulty breathing. Oh no, no, no, Minesh, you cannot be catching corona. Not after all the precautions you have taken. This cannot be happening! But it is. Wheeze, wheeze, wheeze because it is so very difficult to breathe. A severe asthma attack, not the Covid-19 that he feared, as he falls to the floor, alone, still gripping his throat, at 4:30 in the morning.

Smitta Bonus: 'Self Isolation & Other Covid Stories' will be out on World Reader in the time of corona.



BALL BOY WITH AWAL MOHAMMED



MJ slam-dunks in 'The Last Dance'

In a world without sporting action, live performance events, locked clubs and now dusty dance floors, the powers that be decided to release the legendary Michael Jordan's documentary, *The Last Dance*. Don't get me wrong – there is no substitute for the adrenaline live sport brings. Sports lives and breathes in the present moment.

Every single one of its participants moves with a powerful urgency and that creates palpable tension. A tension that glues eyeballs to screens the world over. But for now, *The Last Dance* has acted as a great replacement. After Magic Johnson and Larry Bird ruled the 1980s and ushered in the modern NBA, Michael Jordan took over in the 90s, bagging six titles and becoming not just the greatest basketball player of all time, but one of the most electrifying athletes in any sport ever.

The documentary was initially planned to be released in June, but with the cancellation of almost all major events, the release date was pushed forward. The first two episodes of the documentary aired on Sunday, April 18, with the remaining eight episodes airing weekly until mid-May.

This is not just a talking-heads documentary.

It combines archival footage of the 1997-1998 season where Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf, head coach Phil Jackson and Jordan agreed to let an NBA Entertainment crew film the team during the season, with present-day interviews.

Other than Michael Jordan, the documentary features Hall of Famers Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman, who were part of the 1998 Chicago dynasty.

The 500 hours of behind-the-scenes footage, from dressing room tensions and pep talks to match-winning situations are captured vividly, and for a moment it enthrals the viewer the same way a live match does.

The documentary has elements of actual live sporting events in its DNA, the turning points of a match will remind you of the epic 90 seconds that denied Manchester United the title and handed it over to their noisy neighbours in the 2011-2012 season.

The individual conflicts in the documentary will remind you of the rivalry between John Terry and his club mate Wayne Bridge.

But this is the point: it feels like a live act, a real event and for the sports enthusiast, nothing can replace the high of a live match now more than *The Last Dance*.

ATTITUDE



If you find yourself gravitating towards clean, unfussy and cohesive silhouettes with a bit of rebel in them, you are the classic example of a trendsetter who understands timeless style. Consider this interpretation of minimalism, a 90s vibe and a good mix of afro vibes to present this sartorial mindset.

ESTHER MUCHENE









THRO





It's hard to ignore **a cute off-shoulder,** more so if it comes in fur and is super crop. Pair it with paper bag trousers to tone it down for a more mature and classy look.

steal my style

[PHOTOS: COURTESY]

WITH AHADI WAMBUI

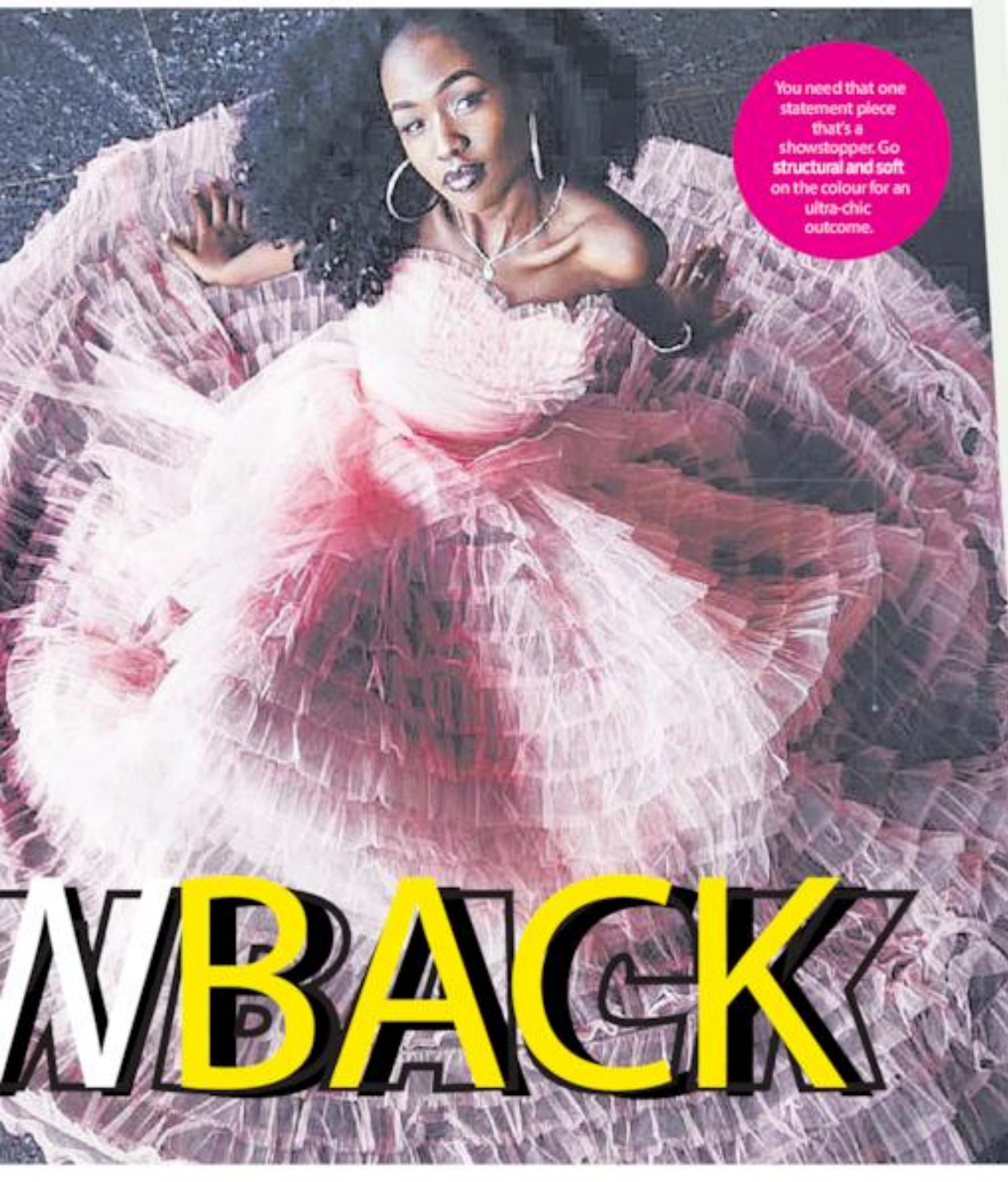
In the nick of Ann

Crop tops have come back with a bang. They are simple and sexy with an array of styles. TV host Ann Nixxie decides to trade in the cliché black crop for an African print off-shoulder long sleeve, combined with white skinny jeans and black thigh-high boots.

The one thing you should look out for when choosing a crop top is size. **Pick a crop that fits you well to avoid** spilling out. If you have to keep adjusting it, it is probably not the right size for you.

To look as leggy as Ann, throw on white skinny jeans as they make you lo**ck lean and long. Thigh-high boots** fin**ish the look off and add that extra** ed**ge.**





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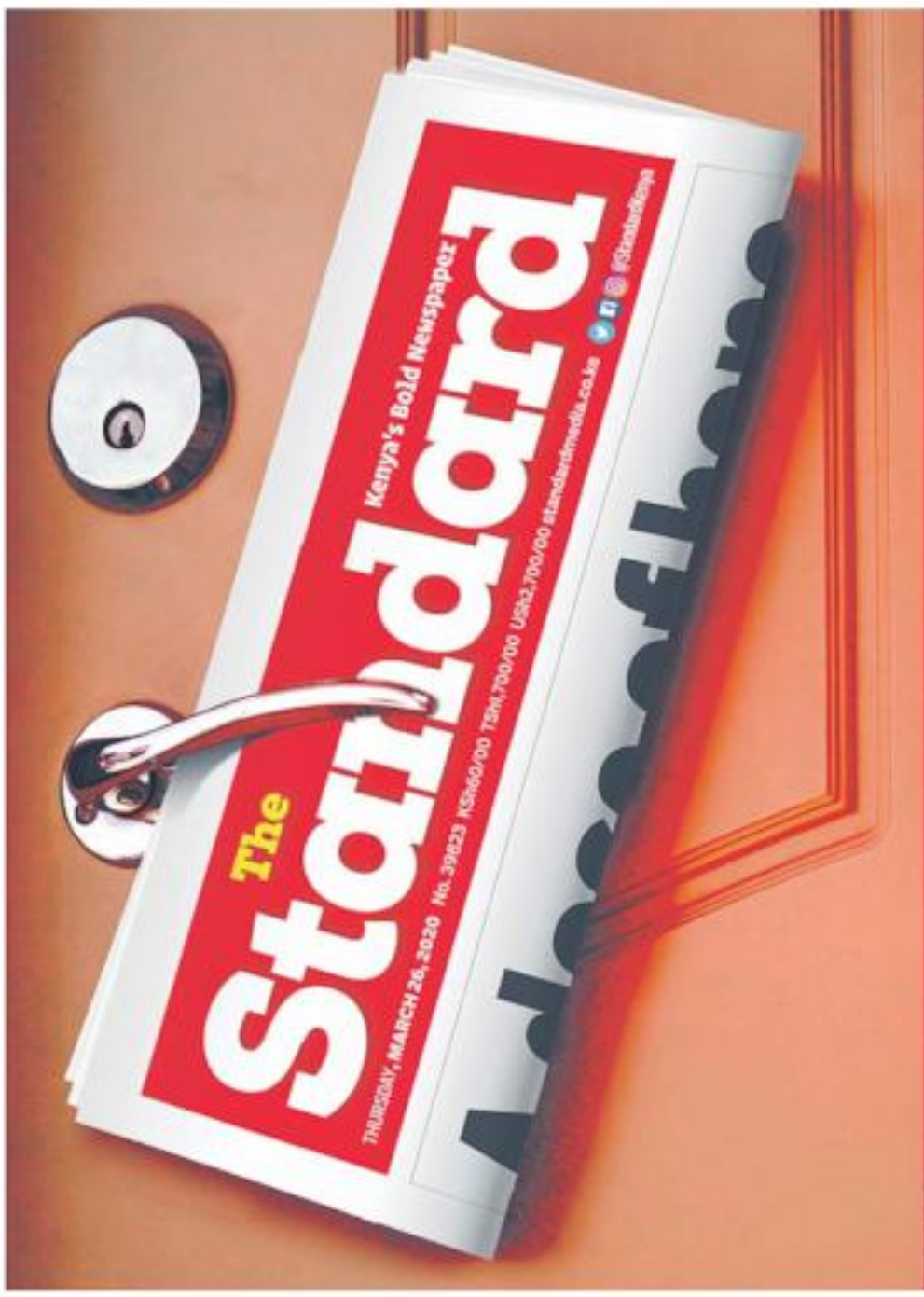
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COVER STORY

COVID AND THE HOOD



As daily health briefings paint a picture of a virus stealthily roaming estates, TONY MOCHAMA picks out the various neighbourhoods that have stood out – and why they're in the eye of a storm

When the photogenic CAS at the Ministry of Health Mercy Mwangangi said, "Covid-19 has reached almost every estate in the (Nairobi) city", that was expected, five weeks after the country detected its first case of coronavirus that came from Ohio (and was probably picked up en route at Heathrow, London).

What surprised denizens of the city-in-the-sun about this disease is that Karen had more detected cases than Kibra, and Kilimani more than Kawangware (or 'Ungwaro' as it is more commonly known).

But what could be the factors at play in the Nairobi neighbourhoods mentioned as most affected?

KILIMANI

Stretching from the Ozone Grill and right to the fresh ozone of the Nairobi Arboretum, Kilimani has become the top culprit of the cases of corona in the city; and this is because of something that is in the DNA of the 'Kilimani' area code: the in-house party culture of this part of the city.

Two months ago, 'Pulse' did an investigation of sex parties that are prevalent in the neighbourhood.

Even with corona now part of the rhythm of the city, some of the most hardcore (and sadomasochist) elements continue to privately organise these goings-on, according to our saucy sources.

Even in more innocuous gatherings, there are people still organising parties for six to a dozen folk any given weekend in Kilimani, the presence of both the space and multiple apartment duplexes making it possible to do so; yet not getting corona requires measures like social distancing and self-isolation.

There are people going to the expansive Nairobi Arboretum Park to have a good time, with picnics and a drink, in the secluded sections of the park, as a crowd.

It is no wonder the most gossipy social media group is 'Kilimani Mums', because it seems not even Covid-19 can stop the Kilimani party hum.

PIPELINE

You will neither understand life, nor corona in Nairobi until you pay a visit to the Pipelin sprawling estate.

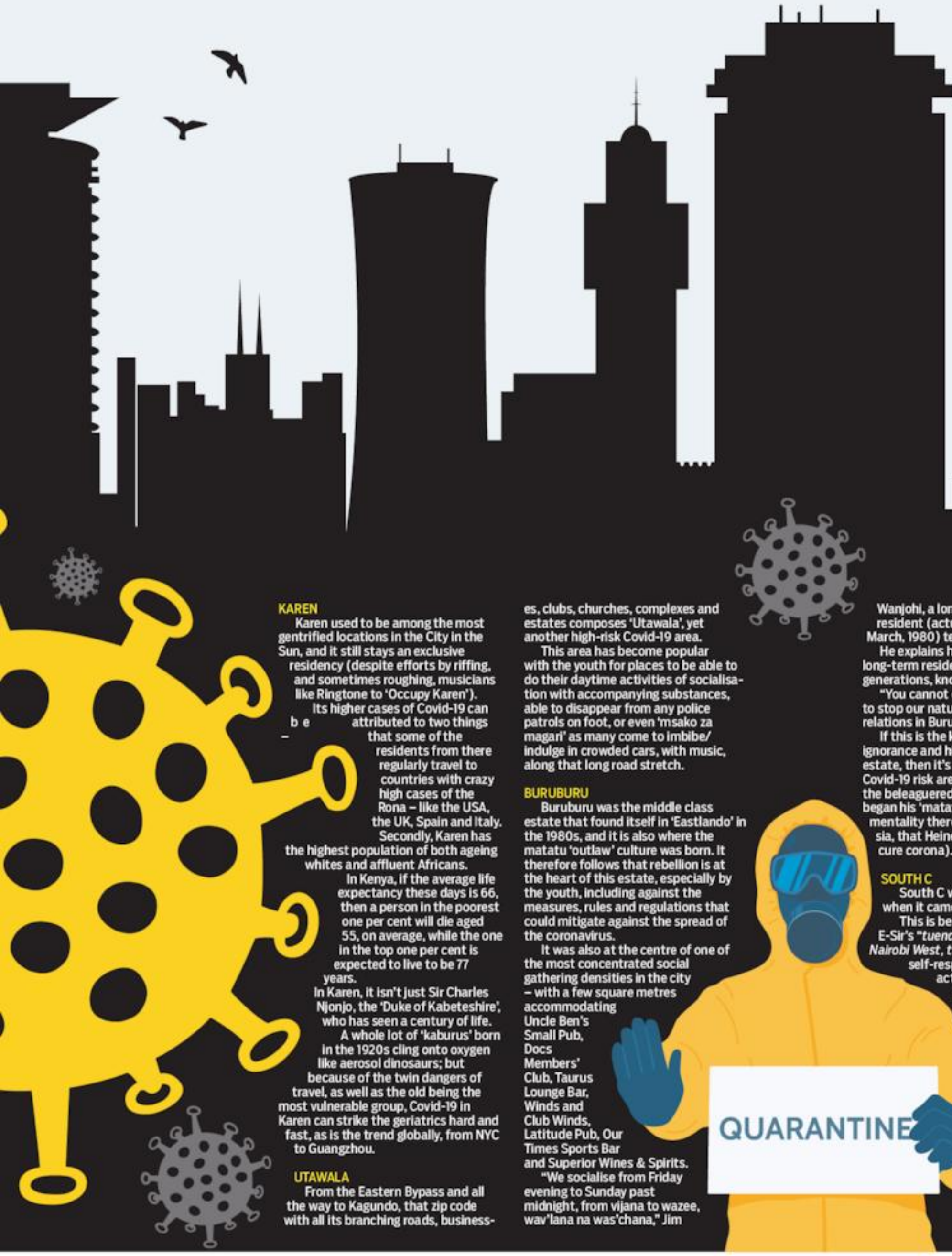
Block-a-chock with flats, Pipeline is the perfect pipeline for any pandemic to run amok through Nairobi. In between buildings, both commercial and residential, you will find the places that gave Pipeline its pulse just before the advent of corona, and that one hears whispers still operates in the underground.

In a parallel universe, New Parallel Pub still operates, you are attended to at Batande Bar, and youth can still get stoned at Kingstone Base, as others look for their mojo at Banjos' Wines and Spirits.

For sure, one can still lay their weary head at Barcelona Boarding, Kavumba Motel, Late Night Lodge and New Nyakisumu City. And even if both the KAG church and oddly named 'Heaven's Gate' Ministry (odd because 'Heaven's Gate' was a religious UFO cult that, 23 years ago, lost 39 of its members to mass suicide as they 'chased' the comet Hale-Boop) are shut on Sundays, the essential services chemists of Santa and Zion are open all the time.

Pipeline has Covid-19 cases aplenty because it's crowded!

COVER STORY



KAREN

Karen used to be among the most gentrified locations in the City in the Sun, and it still stays an exclusive residency (despite efforts by riffing, and sometimes roughing, musicians like Ringtone to 'Occupy Karen').

Its higher cases of Covid-19 can be attributed to two things – that some of the residents from there regularly travel to countries with crazy high cases of the Rona – like the USA, the UK, Spain and Italy.

Secondly, Karen has the highest population of both ageing whites and affluent Africans.

In Kenya, if the average life expectancy these days is 66, then a person in the poorest one per cent will die aged 55, on average, while the one in the top one per cent is expected to live to be 77 years.

In Karen, it isn't just Sir Charles Njonjo, the 'Duke of Kabeteshire', who has seen a century of life.

A whole lot of 'kaburus' born in the 1920s cling onto oxygen like aerosol dinosaurs; but because of the twin dangers of travel, as well as the old being the most vulnerable group, Covid-19 in Karen can strike the geriatrics hard and fast, as is the trend globally, from NYC to Guangzhou.

UTAWALA

From the Eastern Bypass and all the way to Kagundo, that zip code with all its branching roads, businesses, clubs, churches, complexes and estates composes 'Utawala', yet another high-risk Covid-19 area.

This area has become popular with the youth for places to be able to do their daytime activities of socialisation with accompanying substances, able to disappear from any police patrols on foot, or even 'msako za magari' as many come to imbibe/indulge in crowded cars, with music, along that long road stretch.

BURUBURU

Buruburu was the middle class estate that found itself in 'Eastlando' in the 1980s, and it is also where the matatu 'outlaw' culture was born. It therefore follows that rebellion is at the heart of this estate, especially by the youth, including against the measures, rules and regulations that could mitigate against the spread of the coronavirus.

It was also at the centre of one of the most concentrated social gathering densities in the city – with a few square metres accommodating Uncle Ben's Small Pub, Docs Members' Club, Taurus Lounge Bar, Winds and Club Winds, Latitude Pub, Our Times Sports Bar and Superior Wines & Spirits.

"We socialise from Friday evening to Sunday past midnight, from vijana to wazee, wav'lana na was'chana," Jim Wanjohi, a long-term Buruburu resident (actually, since his birth in March, 1980) tells us.

He explains how every one of the long-term residents, many across generations, know and visit each other.

"You cannot expect a small flu virus to stop our natural Nyumba Kumi good relations in Buruburu."

If this is the kind of good-natured ignorance and high defiance in the estate, then it's no surprise it is a Covid-19 risk area (and no wonder that the beleaguered Nairobi governor, who began his 'matatu style' political mentality there, believes, a la Belorussia, that Heineken and Hennessy can cure corona).

SOUTH C

South C was the real outlier when it came to expected cases.

This is because, despite the late E-Sir's "*tuendee tukawake huko Nairobi West, tupitie South C*", no self-respecting youth ever actually stops at staid, old, boring South C to drink, smoke or socialise.

Yet, the estates it is sandwiched between – Nairobi West to its north, and South B to its west – despite their reputations of notoriety, remain corona-free at the time of writing.

OVERHEARD

[PHOTOS: COURTESY]

VERA SIDIKA GOING BANKRUPT?

Reports have it that popular socialite Vera Sidika is feeling the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic more than most entertainers.

As a serial traveller overseas, it is speculated that is where she streams most of her income from, outside of her beauty parlour in Nairobi's Westlands.

With business declining, Vera was said to be desperately looking for consolation, including by twerking for payola on Canadian artiste Tory Lanez' Instagram Live where he rewards the most eccentric performers with a minimum wage of Sh100,000.

But in response, the 'You Guy' video vixen shut haters up, posting her brand new white Range Rover Evoque to combat critics' claims on her financial situation.



FLAMBOYANT GOVERNOR EXPOSED BY DUBAI REAL ESTATE DIRECTOR

One of Kenya's top politiians, a governor known for flaunting expensive designer wear, from trademark silk shirts to big bezel watches, has been unmasked.

The woman, known by the name Caroline J, came out of the closet with images of her and the popular politician "who is handling the Covid-19 crisis very well" in his county, saying she cannot wait for travel restrictions to end so they can re-unite.

The two have been reportedly dating through 2017 and 2018, but called it quits after misunderstandings led to their separation. Although the politician is happily married, Caroline, a Dubai Real Estate Director, has been to the country and has enjoyed multiple vacations with the politician at the Maasai Mara, one of his many palatial homes in the Coast, and even been introduced to the powerful man's close friends, such as musician Ali Kiba.

MAYBACH S600 BRINGS ALL THE BOYS TO THE YARD

A V12 turbo engine German automobile is enough to get A-List celebrities and politicians hiving towards the owner like a bunch of bees.

The crimson brown Mercedes Maybach S600 with the custom number plate '4 ME' with a Kenyan flag beside the text is known to belong to Benka Kangangi.

Seen sporadically cruising the Nairobi streets, the Sh20 million luxury vehicle has been doing rounds, and a number of celebrities have managed to squeeze in selfies with the gigantic car.

From Steve Mbogo and Kevin Obia to Otile Brown and Vera Sidika, the frenzy the machine has caused has been hysterical and comical, as these acts have posed in the vehicle as if it were a tourist attraction.

Guess it's not just regular civilians who get hyped by cars – the rich and wealthy get a humbling, too.



RONOH GOT NRG AXE

Buzzing radio presenter, comedian and digital content creator Chebet Ronoh is no longer part of the NRG family where she was a part of the mid-morning show alongside Charlie Karumi.

Sources reveal that she had a falling out with the radio station's managers for having a poor attitude and inflated ego, which was affecting her productivity at the station.

Thereafter, she would unfollow her co-presenter Charlie on social media and get on the same, posting messages around issues of spirituality, self-reflection, criticism and self-ambition.

She was replaced by Natalie Githinji.

NYASHINSKI RULES THE CHARTS

Nyamari Ongegu, stage name Nyashinski, is a man in a great space as his one-week-old album 'Lucky You' tears up musical charts on Apple Music.

In the chart that exhibits the Top 100 songs listened to by Kenyans, the 'Free' singer is trailblazing with 12 songs in the top 20 – the first Kenyan to achieve this feat.

From spot two to five are his highest entries, with 'Glory', 'Lucky You', 'Greener' and 'G.O.A.T', solidifying his status.

This is followed by 'Sweet Aroma' in the seventh spot to complete a regal top 10 domination by the legendary artist.

Nyashinki held a pre-album live streaming session last Wednesday that attracted a viewership of more than 60,000 across the three platforms of YouTube, Facebook Live and Instagram Live.

His latest music video 'Glory' is also performing well with 344K views as of yesterday morning on YouTube.

HUDDAH MONROE CHARGING SH2,000 FOR PERSONAL CONTENT

If you have ever dreamed of getting up-close and personal with Kenyan socialite and beauty entrepreneur Huddah Monroe, it will cost you Sh2,000.

This has been made possible through a social networking application called Only Fans that has no viewer discrepancy as long as you can pay the price for premium content a user is bargaining for.

Although marketed as Sh1,100, Huddah's account reads Sh2,000 for access to her raunchy and unfiltered self through photos and private messaging.

She gets really secretive through that app, and offers her fans value for their money by FaceTime calling them, sending them pictures, and constantly updating them on her life. The former video vixen is currently on quarantine in Dubai.

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Sat	20	17
Sun	23	16
Mon	23	17
Tue	24	16
Wed	24	16
Thu	24	17



Updates >>>

Nairobi Movement Cessation: Movement within the Nairobi Metropolitan Area is permitted except for the national curfew period of between 7pm and 5am. Movement in and out of Nairobi is prohibited for a period of 21 days.

Extension of International Flights Ban: The Government has extended the ban on international flights for another 30 days. The ban does not apply to cargo flights



and those evacuating foreign nationals. However, flights coming for evacuations should provide a strict 72 hour notice prior to their arrivals.

Prison Visitation Suspension: The Government has suspended prison visits for another 30 days.

Public Gatherings Suspended: The government has with immediate effect suspended public gatherings as it intensifies efforts to tackle the global Corona virus pandemic. The suspension will affect church services, political rallies, prison visits and inter-school games.

— Compiled by Geoffrey Korio

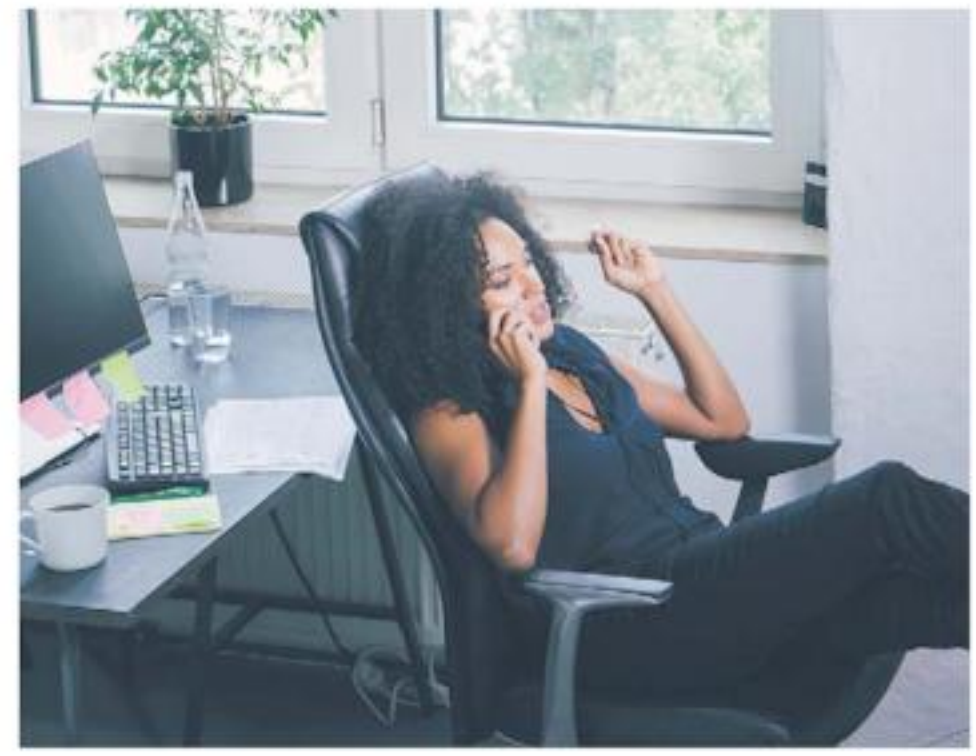
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It's life

10 exciting things about working from home

BY **SILAS NYAMWEYA**



Because of the Coronovirus, working from home has become the new normal for those in automated sectors. Sorry guys of mjengo, guards, touts, cops and those who load letters at the postal corporation. You have to report to work. Working from home has seen many turning some corner of their houses into in-house offices from where they work while wiping the noses of their homebound, wandering brats who are out of school. Others are being forced to work from nearby cyber cafes which are against social distancing but those without home internet and laptops have no choice. Here are 10 reasons why working from home is as exciting as getting a pay rise or bonus...

1. Working in your ngotha

There is nothing like ironing clothes and gong through that fashion headache of selecting which shirt or blouse matches which trousers. You simply sit and start working in your underwear or without. Also you don't have to shower or shave!

2. No more traffic jams

You no longer need to wake up at 5am to beat traffic jams to work. Here, you sleep mpaka 11am, but before lunch time for late breakfast, flip through mushene ya social media before embarking on the day's schedule, but first check mail to see if your kanasty boss has fired a memo of "not locating you on phone.'

3. New friends

Yes, you never knew your neighbour works for a gun company until she popped in to work from your place when her internet was down. That means you are safe incase thugs come calling. The jirani downstairs also does printing, but you didn't know but now you are friends who often drink while working from your dining table since your Internet is just the mother.

4. No office politics

It is not uncommon to find yourself being dragged into a gossip session by kamati ya roho chafu where some lazy butt boss is unmasked. Working from home shields you from negative office politics, gossip, unnecessary meetings and annoying workmates.

5. Freedom galore

You have time to fix the broken toilet seat or shower, check on that 40x80 plot in Kisaju or dying your pubic hair yellow. You can also give instructions to the farm hand in shags for hours on end without worrying about that hawk eyed supervisor who is always "on my case." You don't need permission to take your toto who just swallowed her tongue to the clinic!

6. Homemade meals

You can eat every hour of the day and no one will accuse you of wasting company time on your stomach. You save time spent traveling long distances for good food away from the month old refrigerated stuff served at the company canteen. This means saving money while avoiding expensive cacogenic foods that can get you hospitalized during a pandemic.

7. Custom made work environment

You can work while listening to loud, adult mugithi songs. You can work in darkness with computer light only. You can work from your car or your backyard. You can stop, do laundry, have a siesta then call your cucu who has a weak heart. You can also not work at all, after all, you are not even sure next month's salo will land!

8. Office bar and office

Booze is among the 'essential services' of a lockdown which means you can work with a bottle of whiskey for company — which only happens in advertising agencies. Your house is the smoking zone and there is no worrying about road accidents, alcoblow, curfew and you can deal with the hangover at 11.30 am the following day.

9. You don't have to be at home!

Home can be in the studio apartment of your mistress or that bachelorette pad of Gina from accounts. Maybe lockdown found you in shags in Igambang'ombe from where you are working remotely using portable internet. Ah! the beauty of technology!

10. No nagging boss

Saving the best for last. There is no boss checking arrival and departure times or breathing down your neck, fuming over three hour long lunch breaks. You can also ignore email and calls with "network ni mbaya kwangu!"

TOP PIC





Crime WATCH



March 20: A man who operates a boda boda was arrested for allegedly raping a woman before stealing her personal belongings. The lady is said to be a foreigner.

March 15: Police rescued 29 women aged between 21 to 40 years who were being trafficked to the Middle East and had been held in a house in Dandora.

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