THE STAR

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FRESH AND
DIFFERENT

30
APRIL 2020
THURSDAY

KSh60
(TSh1,000 | USh2,000)



BIG-HEARTED

EQUITY DONATES RECORD SH1BN FOR COVID-19 WAR

PG 6

TENSION SAY PRESIDENT'S SILENCE AS LIEUTENANTS ASSAIL DP CLEAR INDICATION HE ENDORSES ATTACKS

Uhuru betraying Ruto: Kalenjin, Kikuyu elders

Reports indicate Kenyatta is planning a grand house cleaning, may sweep away some Ruto men PG 4-5





CITY BANKER BURNT BEYOND RECOGNITION INSIDE HIS SUBARU CAR

WHAT HAPPENED? The wreckage of the vehicle in which 36-year-old Terance Korir, right, died yesterday / **ANDREW KASUKU** **STORY PG13**

UPDATE

Covid-19 survivors weighed down by stigma, cases hit 384

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UNPROCEDURAL

EACC stops sale of Kenya Railway's Upper Hill property to Sonko

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BREAKTHROUGH

Will Kenyans afford the once-a-year ARV therapy?

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VOICES

WYCLIFFE MUGA

Reviving economy will be harder

PAGE 20



Kenya Defence Forces personnel fumigate Dandora Phase 3 yesterday /WILFRED NYANGARESI

ONE MORE DEATH

Covid–19 survivors struggle with stigma

The number of recoveries is 129 after five more discharged



MAGDALINE SAYA
@TheStarKenya

They have suffered, struggled and finally recovered from Covid-19.

Now they face a new challenge: stigma and alienation from family, friends and communities who fear they are still infectious. They even include health workers who save lives and risk their own.

People avoid them; it's hard to find work; some landlords won't rent to them.

Many recovered Ebola patients have suffered similar discrimination.

The Health ministry will partner with patients who have recovered from Covid-19 to create awareness about the virus in the country. And understanding and compassion.

Health CAS Mercy Mwangangi on Wednesday said it was unfortunate that despite the constant appeal and massive education, people are still being stigmatised.

The number of recoveries is 129 after five more people were discharged from hospital. "We have recorded many recoveries of our people since we reported our first case," Mwangangi said.

"But as we celebrate these recoveries, we are disturbed that reintegration has not been easy for these people. We have reports of stigmatisation by members of the community," she added.

She urged Kenyans to welcome people once they are discharged from hospital

The total number of positive cases in the country as of Wednesday was 384, after 10 more tested positive for the virus.

Nine of the positive cases were from Mombasa while one was from Nairobi's Kawangware estate.

The 10 were picked from 508 samples tested. Of those tested, 284 samples were from Nairobi while 89 were from Mombasa. The 10 cases were aged between 12 and 63 years out of whom six were men and four women.

The nine from Mombasa were picked from contact tracing by surveillance teams. They were from Old Town, Santana, Miritini, Bamburi, Mikindani, Kibokoni, Ganjoni, Memon and Tudor.

One more death was recorded, bringing the total number of fatalities in the country to 15.

The ministry said a lot needs to be done to stop the spread of the virus in Mombasa and Nairobi.

"As the national government, we continue to partner with Mombasa county on the containment measures to curtail the spread of the infection," Mwangangi said.

STERN WARNING

Don't embezzle virus cash, governors told

JULIUS OTIENO/ The anti-graft agency has warned governors and officials charged with managing Covid-19 funds that prompt action will be taken against them if they misappropriate the cash.

The Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission said those who award lucrative tenders to their relatives and friends will not be spared either.

Chief executive officer Twalib Mbarak said they will also crack the whip on suppliers who will take advantage of the situation to increase the prices of goods or those who supply substandard products. "This is a message to the county governors and others involved that we are monitoring how the fund is going to be spent," Mbarak said.

He cautioned them not to take advantage of procurement under the guise of emergency to enrich themselves to the disadvantage of the intended beneficiaries.

"As a commission we are alive to the emergencies posed by this pandemic but I want to be categorical that procurement rules must be followed to the letter," he said.

The CEO maintained that governors and public officials handling the funds must be ready to account for every shilling spent.

He said all procurement laws and regulations must be adhered to as per the Constitution, Public Procurement Act and Public Finance Management (PFM) Act.

Mbarak spoke on Tuesday while presenting the commission's Sh1.2 million donation to the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund Board at KICC.

RAMADHAN TIMETABLE

On this day O Allah place me among those who seek forgiveness. Place me among your righteous and obedient servants, by your kindness, O the most merciful.

HOLY QUR'AN

TOWN	SUHOOR	IFTAR
Nairobi	5:14	6:32
Mombasa	5:07	6:18
Kisumu	5:22	6:41
Garissa	5:03	6:22
Nyeri	5:14	6:33
Isiolo	5:10	6:32
Eldoret	5:19	6:41
Busia	5:24	6:45
Lamu	5:00	6:15
Malindi	5:06	6:19
Kajiado	5:16	6:32
Lodwar	5:11	6:34
Embu	5:11	6 :30
Nakuru	5:17	6:37
Marsabit	5:08	6:34
Machakos	5:13	6:28

STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you think all Kenyan borders should be closed to keep Covid-19 out?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Should the Nairobi lockdown be lifted?

YES 40%

NO 60%

'UNLAWFUL'

Brookhouse parents ask for 30 per cent discount

SUSAN MUHINDI/ Parents of Brookhouse School students have petitioned the High Court to suspend the payment of full fees as the country grapples with the effects of Covid-19.

Fees as indicated on the Brookhouse website ranges between Sh90,000 and Sh1.145 million a year.

Through lawyer Ahmednassir Abdullahi, the parents want fees reduced by 30 per cent for term three, 2020. They have sued on behalf of their children.

They claim other schools of the same parity have considered requests by distressed parents and have granted considerable fee discounts of up to 50 per cent in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

All public and private schools were closed after Education CS George Magoha issued a circular dated March 16 to mitigate the spread of the virus. On Sunday, the CS announced that the government had resolved to extend the nationwide school closure by one month.

As a result of the closure, the parents claim the school – 'without consulting them' - commenced a format of online classes at the same rate of fees and charges that the school offers when learners are physically in school.



Brookhouse School /COURTESY

They say this is unlawful as it amounts to a violation of consumer rights between them and the school.

They want the court to direct Magoha to immediately develop a bill, in coordination with the Attorney-General, for consideration by the National Assembly to regulate and control the capping of school fees in private schools and schools offering international curriculum in Kenya, and report back to court about his progress in 12 months.



Adnan Mohamed



Michael Njau



Samuel Mungai

CAR ABANDONED IN GITHURAI 45

Police launch search for missing activist, cousin and taxi driver

They were travelling from Thika town to Nairobi with phones switched off



TRIZZA KIMANI
@TheStarKenya

Police in Nairobi and Thika are investigating the mysterious disappearance of a city activist, his cousin and a taxi driver.

Micheal Njau, 35, his cousin Adan Mohammed and taxi driver Samuel Mungai were reported missing on April 24.

Njau, aka Gorba, is a Kiamaiko Social Justice Centre activist and a well-known community leader.

His wife Njeri Njau, a mother of three, said they have unsuccessfully searched for them in police and quarantine stations in Thika and Nairobi.

A team of human rights defenders on Wednesday visited Kenyatta National Hospital and its morgue, then proceeded to City Mortuary, Mama Lucy and Thika Level 4 Hospital but received no reports of the three.

Njeri said Njau was making frequent calls last week, showing concerns about her and their children, something she found odd.

"We do not live together. He lives with his cousin in Huruma. Now I am left in the dark and confused. I hope we find them safe and sound," she said.

The three were travelling back from Thika to Nairobi the same day and all of their mobile phones were switched off at around 3pm-4pm after several calls attempts from Mohammed's brother to confirm if they got home safe.

On Sunday, April 26, police discovered the abandoned car (a grey-silver Ractis) in Githurai 45 and took it Githurai police station.

Only a Jacket believed to be the taxi driver's was found.

Social Justice Centre working group yesterday said residents saw one person parking the car. Njau's phone was last traced to Ruiru bypass at around 4pm on Friday.

On Tuesday, the Githurai social justice team accompanied Njeri, Njau's family and the owner of the cab, as the police tried to retrace the movements of the missing persons from where the vehicle was found.

They asked buildings that have CCTV's to produce footage for that day. Only two buildings have surveillance cameras. One is a wines and spirits business and not much was captured as there was a lorry blocking the view.

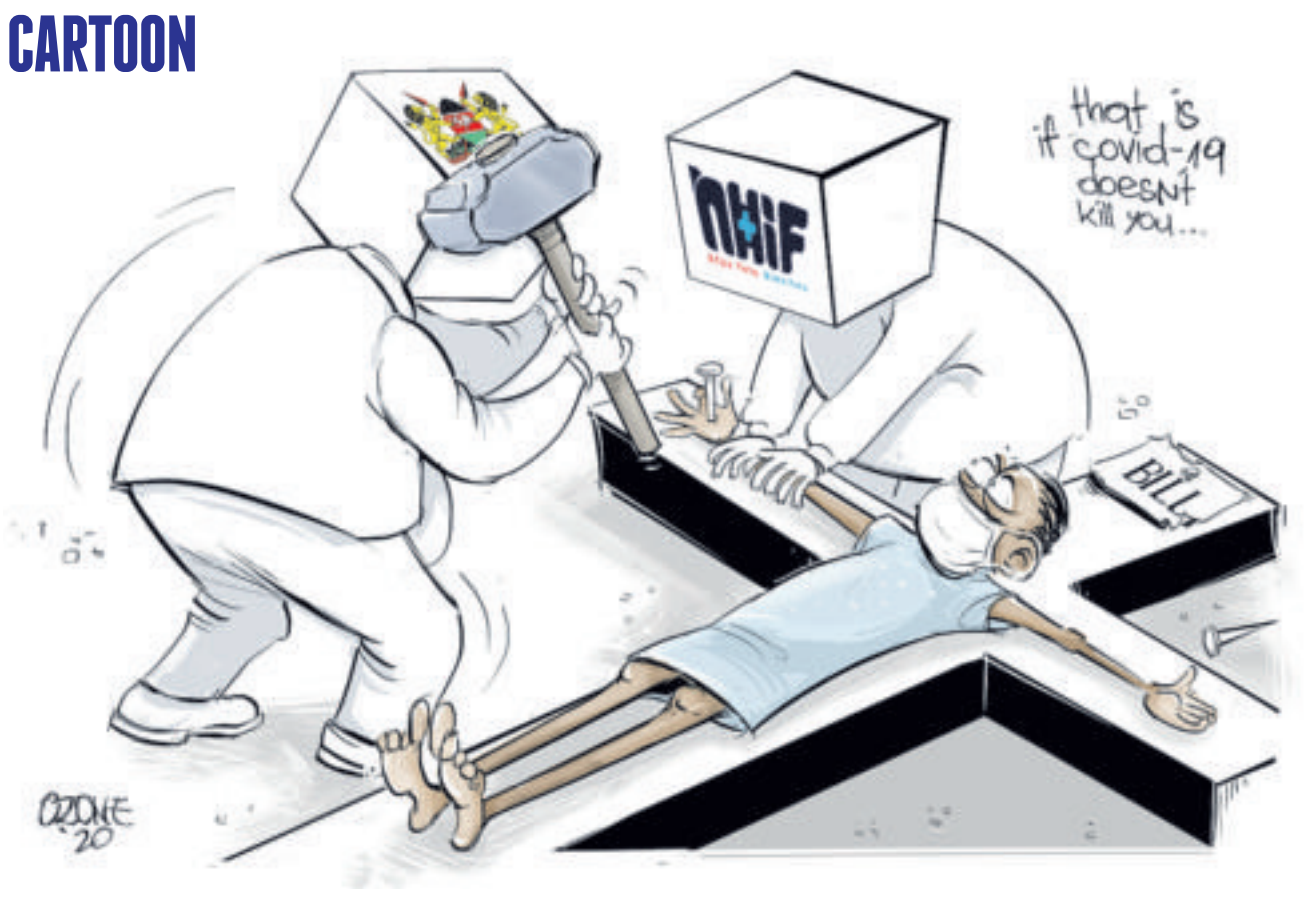
The other one was a church whose officials said their footage was last updated on April 21. They asked for time to update it then send the footage to the driver and Njau's wife. The vehicle will be dusted for fingerprints.

Human rights defender Ruth Mumbi said Njau empowers children and the youth from the slums by helping them build talent through football and modelling.

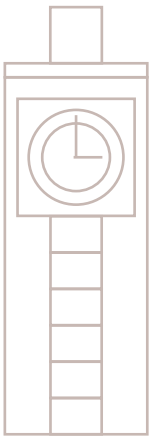
"In a span of two weeks, Kiamaiko has experienced forceful disappearances. Two young men and young women went missing on April 10 and their bodies traced at City Mortuary."

'THE THREE WERE TRAVELLING BACK TO NAIROBI FROM THIKA'

CARTOON



CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



★ **A SECURITY FIRM** associated with a pastor at a popular church with huge following in a Nyanza county is on the spot over claims of harassment and torture of residents in the area. Guards at the firm are said to have taken advantage of the current situation in the country to reign terror on locals over several allegations and local land deals involving the firm's director. They are said to be acting at the behest of the proprietor of the firm to settle scores with the residents whom are arrested, illegally detained at the director's home and tortured over trumped-up charges. Some of the guards are currently under probe by police. The guards are also accused of assuming the role of the police and purporting to implement curfew orders. May be it is time Inspector General **Hillary Mutyambai's** (pictured) boys take note before this group turn into a fully fledged militia.

★ **IT WOULD APPEAR** that Covid-19 has entrenched the mantra that leaders are born during times of crisis hence pushing governors to hatch outrageous stunts to appease the public. The ratings based on performances by media during the pandemic period has forced the county chiefs to embark on a mad rush to ensure a percentage of the budgets is approved under the guise of combating coronavirus and resort to launching preposterous projects. The enlightened public, however, have been calling their bluff and dismissing off hand, their flooding of media space to gaslight the public on their mitigating efforts. They should be reminded, service is no competition.

★ **COULD THE RELATIONS** be frosty between a vocal governor and his party boss? Corridors has observed that the chemistry has withered over time as the county chief who used to heap untold praises on his boss has gone mute while serving his residents. Recently, it was noted that the political stalwart visited the region and met his political rival in the last polls while snubbing the governor. Our snitch intimates that the relations has further fomented by the fact that the governor was in State House recently and gets consulted regularly by government authorities on modalities to fight the pandemic, further brightening the man's star.

★ **THE RECENT 'SACKING'** of a politico from Western Kenya has become sweet music to the ears of his political rivals who are literally celebrating the move. The rivals who see the politician as a potential threat to their political interests in the 2022 General Election deployed their proxies to flood social media with the sacking letter claiming the besieged politician's dismissal confirms that he has fallen out with political powers whose words determine who win what seat in the area.

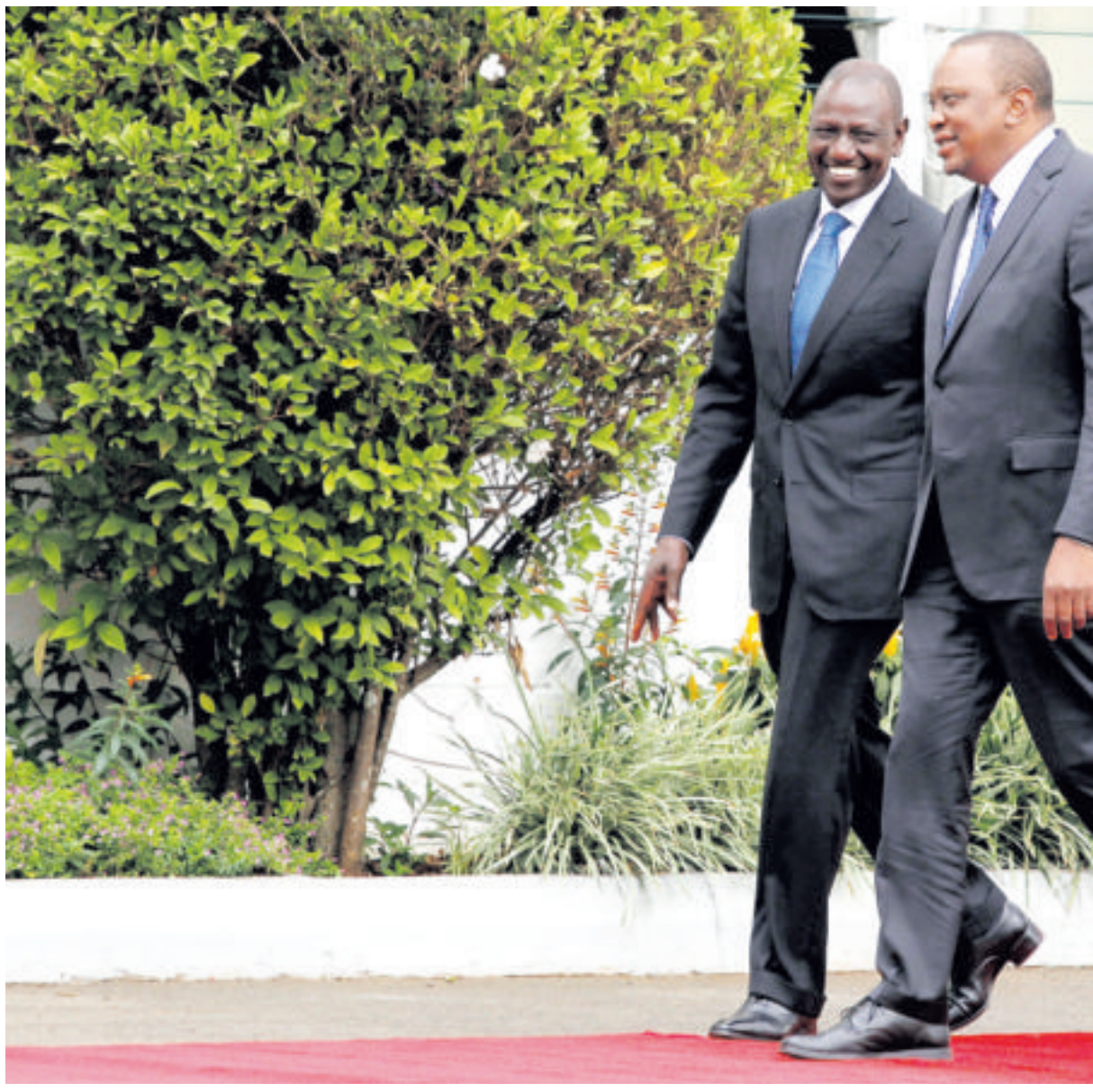
If you have any tips send them to Tips@the-star.co.ke

POLITICS

TENSION SAY PRESIDENT'S STUDIOUS SILENCE WHILE HIS LIEUTENANTS ASSAIL DP A CLEAR IND

Kalenjin and Kiku say Uhuru betray

ALLAN KISIA AND GIDEON KETER
@TheStarKenya



A section of Kalenjin and Kikuyu elders in Rift Valley now claim President Uhuru Kenyatta is frustrating his deputy William Ruto through elaborate state machinery.

The elders spoke as Ruto's allies began to take the war to Kenyatta's doorstep and to undo changes in at least two county assemblies that had the blessings of the President.

The tension in Jubilee is likely to explode, with reports that the President is planning a grand house cleaning that may see some of Ruto's men kicked out from leadership in the party and Parliament.

Speaking to the Star, patron of the Kikuyu Council of Elders in Rift Valley Gilbert Kabage and the Kalenjin Myoot Council of Elders chairman retired Bishop Paul Leleito claimed Uhuru was frustrating Ruto through proxies.

They said Uhuru's studious silence while his lieutenants were attacking the DP was a clear indication that he endorsed the attacks.

Kabage challenged Uhuru to come clear if he was no longer interested in honouring the 2013 succession deal with Ruto, instead of "humiliating him."

"What Uhuru is doing to the DP belongs to an uncivilised generation. We have seen tribal clashes in 1992, 1997 and a bad one in 2007-08. We want to speak to the powers that be that we will not be taken in that direction again," he said.

The DP's critics have always said his troops were using threats of violence in his Rift Valley turf to coerce the Kikuyu community to back his presidential bid.

"If Uhuru wants to form a coalition with Raila, they can do without all this drama and humiliation of the DP and his allies. Kenyans will decide who will lead them when the time comes," Kabage said.

He said were it not for Ruto who campaigned vigorously for Jubilee Party across the country, Uhuru would not be the President.

"Uhuru should think twice of the handshake that took place at Afraha Stadium, Nakuru county, and the pledges he made. He made those pledges in the presence of a multitude and we will stand by that," he said.

But in a rejoinder, Kikuyu Council of Elders chairman Wachira Kiago termed the statement as reckless and irresponsible.

"Uhuru is always talking about uniting Kenya. How then is it that some people are saying he is pitting two communities against each other?" he posed. "It is very unfortunate that such statements could come from elders. There are a number of issues facing the country at the moment that the elders can focus on." The DP has himself publicly claimed that the "system" has been weaponised to ruin his presidential run in 2022.

He has been missing in action as Kenyatta battles to contain the Covid-19 pandemic that has sank the Kenyan economy to its knees.

Lately, however, Ruto has taken to social media, quoting select Bible verses that seem to be sending coded messages to his detractors.

"Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident," he tweeted on Sunday.

Yesterday he tweeted: "I love speaking in tongues. The devil doesn't understand this language of God (1Cor 14.2). Those who have no godfathers let's proudly speak in tongues to our God the Father. With this pandemic let's pray for God's healing, work together to feed the hungry and plan to repair our hustles."

In an interview with the Star, Leleito noted that the "country was heading in the wrong direction under the watch of Uhuru."

He challenged the President to

GILBERT KABAGE

We know where we have come from as a country and where we are heading. The Kalenjins and the people of Mt Kenya, as well as other Kenyans, should not accept to be divided again. They say where there is smoke there is a fire and the President should tell us what is happening

For more news on our website. Scan this quick response code using your smartphone.

DICATION HE ENDORSED THE ATTACKS

uyu elders ying Ruto







President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto at State House, Nairobi, on August 30, 2018

Top right, patron of the Kikuyu Council of Elders in Rift Valley Gilbert Kabage

Below right, Kalenjin Myoot Council of Elders chairman retired Bishop Paul Leleito / FILE

come out openly and tell the country the trouble he has with his deputy

"We are concerned as the Kalenjin community and as elders about what could be the problem with the two leaders. They came together in 2013 promising to unite not just the Kalenjins and the Kikuyu people but all Kenyans, but this is now fading," he said.

He said Ruto being the second-in-command should be accorded respect, and called on Uhuru to take a clear position on the matter.

"We know where we have come from as a country and where we are heading. The Kalenjins and the people of Mt Kenya, as well as other Kenyans, should not accept to be divided again. They say where there is smoke there is a fire and the President should tell us what is happening," he emphasised.

Jubilee deputy secretary general Caleb Kositany, a close ally of the DP, on Tuesday began a war with the Kenyatta wing, attempting to undo county assembly leadership changes initiated by his boss, Raphael Tuju.

Kositany wrote letters reinstating assembly officials in Kirinyaga and Kajiado.

He claimed to have reinstated Kirinyaga assembly majority leader James Murango who was dismissed for spearheading the impeachment of Governor Anne Waiguru.

Ironically, it was Uhuru who instructed Tuju to save Waiguru, one of the strongest proponents of the handshake, from lynching by MCAs.

The motion was scuttled.

Kositany's move is seen in Uhuru's circle as another attempt by the DP to annihilate strong leaders from Uhuru's Mt Kenya backyard.

Ruto was accused of engineering massive rigging of the Jubilee primaries in 2017 to instal his favourites.

In Kajiado, Kositany claimed to have reinstated majority whip Martin Kimemia and his deputy Justus Ngossor.

JUBILEE CONTROVERSIES

- Ruto claiming the DCI is being used to ruin his presidential ambition
- DCI claims top officials in Ruto's office covered up Kenei's murder
- Ruto missing from Covid-19 response meetings chaired by Uhuru
- Ruto reads riot act to Kibicho and Matiang'i
- Uhuru claiming his choice for 2022 successor will shock everyone
- Ruto claims changes to the National Management Committee were illegal and fraudulent
- Standoff over changes in Nairobi, Nyeri and Kajiado county assemblies' leadership
- Ruto allies claim they won't recognise David Murathe after his quiet return as vice chairman
- Leadership wrangles pitting secretary general Raphael Tuju against his deputy, Caleb Kositany
- DP Ruto goes online to vent his tribulations in Jubilee
- Kieleweke and Tangatanga factions wars
- Claims by Ruto allies that the DP has been isolated in the Executive

STAR ILLUSTRATED



COMMENT

PHILIP CHEBUNET

Internal forces tearing Jubilee apart

The war in Jubilee is multifaceted. There are internal forces either pulling towards President Uhuru Kenyatta or Deputy President William Ruto.

This problem came about as a result of failure to respect the party constitution and convene meetings of party members as often as possible to iron out issues.

This is where the party leader was required to step in and provide leadership. The other forces are external.

We have the 2022 general election and succession scheming is ongoing. ODM leader Raila Odinga's hand has been mentioned in the squabbles.

The argument out there is that Raila has teamed up with some party officials and some individuals against Ruto.

To start with, JP secretary general Raphael Tuju is the public face of a shadowy cabal and has no authority to write letters to the Registrar of Political Parties without the approval of the National Executive Committee chaired by the party leader.

Tuju is holding brief for shadowy individuals who are not even members of JP who are known to support Raila's bid for 2022. Uhuru would never engage in or support fraud, illegality, or destroy the party he leads.

Tuju claims he is acting for Uhuru, however, it is vice chairman David Murathe, Cotu secretary general Francis Atwoli and Raila who are supporting Tuju's actions.

Tuju and Murathe are Raila's men; Tuju might soon run for governor of Siaya on the ODM ticket. Murathe resigned last year, Atwoli and Raila are not members of JP and they do not speak for Uhuru.Raila is hoping his surrogates will help him win over Mt Kenya in 2022.

They have promised to deliver Mt Kenya. Raila is a schemer who has managed to make his way into the heart of JP politics and as any politician would, he is now trying to weaken JP to ensure he has a better chance of winning in 2022.

Raila is a disruptive force who has somewhat succeeded in doing to UhuRuto's Jubilee what he did to Kibaki's PNU. Most of these guys (party officials) are busy creating a wedge between Uhuru and Ruto for their own selfish reasons.

Uhuru is silent because he is busy dealing with Covid-19 and, like former President Kibaki, is interested in leaving a legacy; the Big 4 is facing challenges due to Covid-19.

The political analyst and media consultant spoke to the Star



EACC chief executive Twalib Mbarak



Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko



Kenya Railway MD Philip Mainga

GRAFT PROCEEDINGS?

EACC stops sale of Kenya Railway property to Sonko

The estate in Upper Hill is the nerve centre of governor's political activities

FELIX OLICK AND JULIUS OTIENO
@TheStarKenya

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has stopped the sale of a multi-million-shilling property said to belong to Kenya Railways Corporation to Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko.

The property in the upmarket Upper Hill Estate has been the nerve centre of Sonko's political activities, more so after he was barred from accessing his City Hall office.

The Star has established that the EACC wrote to Kenya Railway boss Philip Mainga on Tuesday asking the corporation to freeze any deal on the property as it's under active probe.

"The Commission is in receipt of information that Kenya Railways Corporation is in the process of selling one of the properties, a house situated at Matumbato Road Nairobi, to Primix Ltd," EACC chief executive Twalib Mbarak said.

"This is to ask you to halt any intended sale as the matter is under investigations."

A search done by the Star shows that Sonko's wife Primrose Mwelu is one of Primix Ltd's directors.

Her co-director is Mwajuma Hamisi.

The private office is known as Sonko's command centre and is always a behive of activity with tens of guests walking in and out.

Yesterday, Mainga distanced Kenya Railways from the deal, saying the property belongs to Kenya Railways Pension Scheme.

"That one I am not involved," he told the Star. "That is a pension scheme project and my office is not involved at all."

Sonko's spokesman Ben Mulwa decribed the sale as a "private issue" that they would only respond to if required by EACC.

"This is a private engagement by the governor [and KRC]. So, he [governor] wouldn't wish to comment on that," Mulwa said.

Two months ago, the High Court froze Sonko's 10 bank accounts with about Sh18 million after the governor was charged with Sh357 million graft. The EACC alleges he received millions of shillings in kickbacks in a garbage collection tender.

The Asset Recovery Agency argues there are reasonable grounds to believe that the cash was part of the funds stolen from the county government and intends to file a suit for the cash to be forfeited to the government.

At the time, the flamboyant county chief, known for wearing expensive gold chains argued that the court decision had grounded him financially and that he could not support himself or his family.

However, the governor has continued with his philanthropy, in what could signal that he still has a massive financial resources.

Just a week ago, Sonko was sending coronavirus care packages with bottles of Hennessy (cognac) to the poor.

He claimed that the World Health Organisation had advised that alcohol kills the virus.

"I think from the research conducted by the World Health Organisation and various health organisations, it has been revealed that alcohol plays a very major role in killing the coronavirus or any sort of virus," the Nairobi governor said.

'THIS IS TO ASK YOU TO HALT ANY INTENDED SALE AS THE MATTER IS UNDER PROBE'

ACCEPTS DECISION IN HUMILITY

I did my best at KNH, says sacked board boss Gumbo

JAMES MBAKA/ I was not perfect but I did my best.

Those were the words of former Rarieda MP Nicholas Gumbo after he was sacked on Wednesday as chairman of the Kenyatta National Hospital board.

Reacting to his sacking by President Uhuru Kenyatta from the helm of the country's premier referral facility, Gumbo said he accepted the decision with humility and grace.

"I wish to thank the President for the opportunity he gave me to serve Kenyans. I did what I could although no one can be perfect," Gumbo told the Star hours after his sacking was gazetted.

Gumbo, an engineer, said the President didn't owe him any explanation as to why he was sacked after serving for only 11 months.

Gumbo was appointed KNH board chairman in May last year for a period of three years. "That is the prerogative of the President and he is under no obligation to explain what he has done and I wish my successor all the best," Gumbo said.

In a Gazette notice dated April 22, the President named former Commission on Revenue Allocation CEO George Opondo Ooko as the new KNH board chairman with effect from April 21, 2020, to May 2, 2022.



Nicholas Gumbo /FILE

"The appointment of Nicolas Gumbo is revoked," President Kenyatta said in the notice.

PHILANTHROPY

Equity donates Sh1 billion for fight against coronavirus

MARTIN MWITA/ Equity Group Foundation has donated Sh1.1 billion to support Covid-19 response in Kenya with support from Equity Bank, MasterCard Foundation and the family of James Mwangi.

The commitment includes a Sh300 million contribution from Equity Bank, Sh500 million from the MasterCard Foundation and Sh300 million the family of Equity Group Holdings managing director and CEO Mwangi. The funds will go towards the purchase of personal protective equipment for frontline medical personnel dealing with Covid-19 patients in public hospitals in the country.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Censors win as court upholds 'gay' Rafiki film ban by KFCB

SUSAN MUHINDI/ The High Court has upheld the ban on Rafiki, a controversial film about two girls in love.

The state says it promotes immorality and lesbianism. The court said the ban protects Kenyans from moral decay. The Creative Economic Working Group said it would appeal. Yesterday the court dismissed a suit filed by film director Wanuri Kahiu challenging the constitutionality of the ban by the Kenya Film Classification Board. She said it violates freedom of expression guaranteed by the Constitution.

In a judgment, Justice James Makau said the discretion exercised by the KFCB to prohibit the screening of Rafiki was constitutional.



Phylis Ngirita (L) in curt in 2018 /FILE

OUT TO HOODWINK COURT

Ngirita application to access frozen account dismissed

SUSAN MUHINDI/ The High Court yesterday declined to allow NYS graft suspect Phylis Ngirita to withdraw Sh700,000 from her frozen bank account for school fees.

Ngirita is one of the accused in the National Youth Service corruption case and their accounts were frozen.

She had asked the court to allow her access her account at the Kenya Commercial Bank to withdraw funds for payment of school fees for her son. The boy is a student at Pembroke School.

While dismissing the application, Justice Mumbi Ngugi said Ngirita was out to hoodwink the court with the aid of her lawyer Evans Ondieki.

The judge said Ngirita seems to have been operating under the misapprehension that the allegation that the rights of a child are being violated will move the court to grant orders without inquiring further into the matter.

"While courts do consider the interest of children and would like to avoid a situation in which they are exposed to hardship, the mere allegation that this is the case is not sufficient to move the court to grant orders in favour of the applicant," Ngugi said.

The judge said the matter as filed was an abuse of court process as the issues raised are already before another court and that there is in force an order addressing itself to the funds sought.



Gifty Quarcoo, born August 24, 1956 in Ghana, passed on April 28, 2020 in Nairobi

It is with humble acceptance that we announce the untimely death of Gifty Quarcoo, beloved wife of Patrick Quarcoo, the CEO of Radio Africa Group.

She was the mother to Clarence, Anowa, and Rachael.

In line with prevailing government regulations, there will be no gatherings or prayer meetings at her home and the funeral arrangements will be private.

"You will do everything you have promised: Lord, your Love is eternal. Complete the work you have begun." **- Psalm 138: 1-3, 6-8**

There will be a memorial service at a later date.

SAFARICOM PLC

CONDENSED AUDITED RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020



Safaricom is committed to keeping Kenyans connected and we will continue to support the Government of Kenya and Kenyans at large during this unprecedented pandemic.

The total value of our contribution to the fight against the coronavirus pandemic currently stands at KShs 6.5bn, and this is a cost that is growing every day. We have been able to offer this support because of operating in a regulatory environment that allows innovative businesses to thrive.

Nicholas Nganga, Chairman



In FY20, my aim was to ensure the organization focused more on the customer, regaining both the Customer Trust and Market Share

We have stayed the course, given customers more value, and put the consumer first by delivering relevant products and services.

As a result, the business has delivered exceptionally well, outperforming the guidance, in the process generating solid returns to our shareholders.

Michael Joseph, Outgoing CEO



The COVID-19 pandemic presents an opportunity for Safaricom to leverage its digital and data capability to support customers and community during this period and through the recovery process. We will focus on developing a range of digital products and services that will provide sustainable solutions to challenges in sectors like: agriculture, health, education and essential services.

Whilst FY21 is going to be a challenging one, I feel as a business we are well placed to navigate our way through the uncertainty that lies ahead.

Peter Ndegwa, CEO

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended KShs Bn	Group 31-Mar-20 IFRS 15/16	31-Mar-20 IFRS15/IAS17	31-Mar-19 IFRS15/IAS17	Change% IFRS 15/IAS17
Service revenue	251.22	251.22	239.77	4.8%
Handsets and other revenue	10.48	10.48	9.45	10.9%
Construction revenue	0.58	0.58	0.60	(3.3%)
Other income	0.28	0.28	0.46	(39.1%)
Total revenue	**262.56**	**262.56**	**250.28**	**4.9%**
Direct costs	(74.70)	(74.70)	(71.80)	4.0%
Provision for expected credit loss (ECL) on receivables	(1.67)	(1.67)	0.01	<100.0%
Construction costs	(0.58)	(0.58)	(0.60)	(3.3%)
Other expenses	(47.56)	(50.97)	(53.59)	(4.9%)
Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation & amortisation (EBITDA)	**138.04**	**134.63**	**124.30**	**8.3%**
Depreciation and amortisation	(36.55)	(33.62)	(35.33)	(4.8%)
Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT)	**101.49**	**101.01**	**88.97**	**13.5%**
Net finance income	0.92	2.56	2.24	14.3%
Share of profit of associate	0.06	0.06	0.01	>100.0%
Share of profit of Joint Venture (M-PESA Global Services Limited)	3.30	3.30	0.00	>100.0%
Profit before income tax	**105.77**	**106.93**	**91.22**	**17.2%**
Income tax expense	(32.12)	(32.23)	(28.73)	12.2%
Profit after tax	**73.66**	**74.70**	**62.49**	**19.5%**
Other comprehensive income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	**73.66**	**74.70**	**62.49**	**19.5%**
Attributed to:				
Equity holders of the company	**73.66**	**74.70**	**62.49**	**19.5%**
Basic and diluted earnings per share (EPS)	**1.84**	**1.86**	**1.56**	**19.5%**
Proposed dividend	**56.09**	**56.09**	**50.08**	
Proposed dividend per share (DPS)	**1.40**	**1.40**	**1.25**	

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at KShs Bn	Group 31-Mar-20 IFRS 15/16	31-Mar-20 IFRS 15/IAS17	31-Mar-19 IFRS15/IAS17	% Change IFRS 15/IAS17
Capital employed				
Share capital (including share premium)	4.20	4.20	4.20	0.0%
Retained earnings	82.79	83.83	65.22	28.5%
Proposed dividends- Normal	56.09	56.09	50.08	12.0%
Proposed dividends- Special	0.00	0.00	24.84	(100.0%)
Total equity	**143.08**	**144.12**	**144.35**	**(0.2%)**
Represented by:				
Non-current liabilities	13.64	1.97	1.87	5.3%
Total equity and non-current liabilities	**156.72**	**146.09**	**146.22**	**(0.1%)**
Non-current assets	**164.40**	**149.17**	**142.52**	**4.7%**
Current assets				
Contract assets	2.56	2.56	1.99	28.6%
Inventories	1.86	1.86	1.78	4.5%
Receivables and prepayments	17.19	18.36	18.13	1.3%
Cash and cash equivalents	26.76	26.76	20.03	33.6%
Other Financial assets	0.19	0.19	8.04	(97.6%)
Current income tax	0.26	0.14	0.00	100.0%
	48.82	**49.87**	**49.96**	**(0.2%)**
Current liabilities				
Lease liability	3.55	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Contract liabilities	9.41	9.41	9.28	1.4%
Dividend payable	1.05	1.05	0.00	100.0%
Payables and accrued expenses	29.92	29.92	28.70	4.3%
Provision for other liabilities	4.46	4.46	3.89	14.7%
Income tax payable	0.11	0.11	0.35	(68.6%)
Borrowings	8.00	8.00	4.03	98.5%
	56.50	**52.95**	**46.26**	**14.5%**
Net current (liabilities)/assets	**(7.68)**	**(3.08)**	**3.70**	**(<100.0%)**
	156.72	**146.09**	**146.22**	**(0.1%)**

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended KShs Bn	Group 31-Mar-20 IFRS 15/16	31-Mar-20 IFRS 15/IAS17	31-Mar-19 IFRS15/IAS17	% Change IFRS 15/IAS17
Operating activities				
Cash generated from operations	139.60	135.86	125.29	8.4%
Movement in restricted cash	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.33)	(78.8%)
Interest received	2.94	2.94	2.32	26.7%
Income tax paid	(32.11)	(32.11)	(27.46)	16.9%
Net cash from operating activities	**110.36**	**106.62**	**99.81**	**6.8%**
Investing activities	(29.63)	(29.63)	(45.05)	(34.2%)
Dividends paid	(73.88)	(73.88)	(44.07)	67.6%
Interest paid	(0.35)	(0.35)	(0.20)	75.0%
Other financing activities	0.23	3.97	0.04	>100.0%
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	**6.73**	**6.73**	**10.53**	**(36.1%)**
Movement in cash and cash equivalents				
At start of year	20.03	20.03	9.50	>100.0%
Increase	6.73	6.73	10.53	(36.1%)
At end of the year	**26.76**	**26.76**	**20.03**	**33.6%**

Commentary on Results

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the audited results for the year ended 31 March 2020. The same accounting policies and methods of computation have been used as were in the last financial statements with the exception of IFRS 16 and change in PPE useful life for specific asset categories. More details are available in our results booklet on our website.

COVID-19 Comment

In an increasingly digital economy, Safaricom plays a critical role in responding to the challenges weighed in by the COVID-19 pandemic. To demonstrate resilience as a business, we aim to innovate and execute with speed more sustainable solutions to the needs facing our customers now, which will ensure sustainability of our business in the long term. Our purpose of transforming lives remains at the core of everything we do. We continue to implement measures to cushion customers and Kenyans at large from the negative impact of the pandemic. Our current support valued which extends to 30 June 2020 is valued at KShs6.5bn. We anticipate that the challenges caused by the pandemic will have a negative impact on the business in the short term.

Operating Review

Service Revenue in the year grew 4.8% to KShs 251.22bn as at 31 March 2020 from KShs 239.77bn driven by sustained customer growth, mobile data growth returning to double digit along with sustained M-PESA and fixed data growth. The growth was partially offset by COVID-19 response and a contraction of betting industry. On an underlying basis Service Revenue increased 5.9%. Customers in the year increased 12.2% to 35.6mn as at 31 March 2020. M-PESA one month active customers increased 10.0% to 24.9mn while mobile data one month active chargeable customers increased 10.2% YoY to 19.6mn.

Capital expenditure in the network for the year ended 31 March 2020 stood at KShs 36.10bn. To finance this expansion, the company levered its statement of financial position and continues to invest a significant portion of internally generated cash.

Share of Profit of Joint Venture

This is a one-off exceptional gain arising from acquisition of the M-PESA brand. The profit and total comprehensive income for the year grew 19.5% YoY but normalized for this exceptional item, it grew 14.3% YoY.

Borrowings

As at 31 March 2020, bank borrowings were KShs 8.00bn while cash and cash equivalents stood at KShs 26.76bn leaving a net cash of KShs 18.76bn.

Taxation

The Group continues to be a major contributor to the revenues of the Government and remitted KShs110.98bn in duties, taxes and license fees for the year ended 31 March 2020. This increased the total duties, taxes and fees paid since inception to KShs 809.50bn.

Dividends

The Board remains committed to investing in the business and continuing our strong record for paying progressive dividends each year. The proposed dividend for FY20 is KShs 56.09bn. The proposed dividend per share (DPS) of KShs 1.40 has been computed at 80% of the profit and total comprehensive income for the year excluding the one-off exceptional item of share of profit of joint venture of KShs 3.3bn, divided by number of issued share capital on IFRS 15/16 basis.

Notes

Following the adoption of IFRS 16 - Leases on 1 April 2019, the Group's results for the year ended 31 March 2020 are on an IFRS 15/IFRS 16 basis, whereas the results for the period to 31 March 2019 are (as previously reported) on an IFRS 15/IAS 17 basis. To ensure appropriate disclosure during the period of transition onto IFRS 16, numbers for the period ended 31 March 2020 have been disclosed on both IFRS 16 and IAS17 basis and our commentary describing our operating performance has been provided solely on an IFRS 15/IAS17 basis.

By order of the Board



Nicholas Nganga
Chairman
28 April 2020

Safaricom

KSHS 6.5BN SUPPORT SO FAR FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

In the face of **COVID-19,** each of us has to play our part in keeping ourselves safe. Safaricom is here with you as we move forward in these tough times

719
Coronavirus toll-free line powered by Safaricom

Over 300 trained customer care executives

24/7
Information centre

HOME 2X BANDWIDTH
At no extra cost for 90 days

BONGA FOR GOOD
Use Bonga Points at any outlets with **Lipa Na M-PESA** till to buy food and basic necessities

Safaricom Foundation
Thermal cameras donated to Ministry of Health

FOOD DONATIONS

M-PESA
Free Person-to-Person & **Lipa Na M-PESA** transactions below KShs1,000*

M-PESA WALLET BANK
Free Bank to/from M-PESA transactions*

ZERO RATED
charges for hospital and dispensaries

KShs 150,000
Daily M-PESA transaction limit to support SMEs

KShs 300,000
Daily M-PESA wallet capacity

*From 16th March 2020 to 30th June 2020

DRIVING A SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS, INVESTING IN:

Our Economy
- Duties, taxes, licence fees paid **KShs 810bn** since inception
- Tax payer of the year **12 years** in a row
- Supporting nearly **1m** people through **direct & indirect employment**
- **74%** of procurement spend to local suppliers **(up 7% YoY)**

Our Community
- Directly impacting **1m+ Kenyans** in **FY20**
- Supporting projects across **health, education, economic empowerment, water** and **environmental conservation**
- **Safaricom Foundation** invested **KShs 481 mn** in **FY20**
- **M-PESA Foundation** invested **KShs 1.1bn** in **FY20**

Our People
- **35% women in leadership,** targeting gender balance by 2021
- **23% women in technology,** up from just 10% in 2014
- Women in technology programmes to support **women engineers**
- **2.3% of staff are differently-abled,** with plans to expand

Environmental Sustainability
- Targeting **Net-Zero** carbon emissions **by 2050**
- **5 million trees** to be planted within the next 5 years
- **E-Waste** collection and recycling, **1,287 tonnes** collected to date
- Total solid waste collected in FY20 is **299,911 tonnes** and out of this **97.4%** was recycled

KEY HIGHLIGHTS | IMPROVED SHAREHOLDER RETURN AND CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN KENYA

Service Revenue
+4.8% YoY

KShs 251.2 bn FY20
KShs 239.8 bn FY19

EBIT
+13.5% YoY

KShs 101.0 bn FY20
KShs 89.0 bn FY19

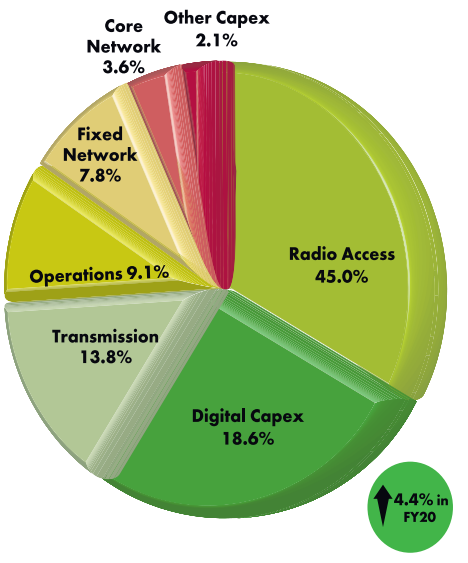
HEPS*
+14.3% YoY

KShs 1.78 FY20
KShs 1.56 FY19

Free Cashflow
+11.4% YoY

KShs 70.3 bn FY20
KShs 63.1 bn FY19

*Headline Earnings per Share (HEPS), excludes a one-off gain arising from acquisition of the M-PESA brand



Simple • Transparent • Honest FOR YOU

Safaricom



PHOTO STORY

Transport CS James Macharia at Nairobi Railway Station during the commissioning of a disinfectant tunnel yesterday **/ MERCY MUMO**

LAWBREAKERS

Why eight officers are facing murder charges

IPOA warns it will not hesitate to act on bad officers

BENJAMIN IMENDE AND GORDON OSEN
@TheStarKenya

Ali Sora Bonaya collapsed and died at his North Horr home in Marsabit of injuries he sustained during an altercation with a police officer in 2017.

He died two days after the incident.

Friends and relatives say Bonaya was attacked by the officer soon after he left his house.

"We were in the house and he was the first to walk out. We followed and found the police officer beating him," Ahmed Rakwa told reporters.

The officer did not say why he was beating Bonaya. "When he went to record the statement, the police told him to go back later. They did so two times. He collapsed and died on the second day," Rakwa said.

His cousin, Sabduo Boyana, said the postmortem report showed that Ali had a ruptured spleen, bruised left anterior thigh and depressed skull on the right temporal region.

"IPOA has forwarded the investigation file to the ODPP as dictated by law. Upon an independent review of IPOA findings, the ODPP gave the greenlight to charge the officers," Independent Policing Oversight Authority chairperson Ann Makori said. "The officers to be charged are Constable Bernard Gachau (with murder) and Sergeant James Mulwa (with neglect of duty) contrary to Section 128 of the Penal Code."

Bonaya is in the long list of people killed by the law enforcers. "In all the cases, ODPP said there is sufficient evidence to sustain trial in a court of law," Makori said in her report.

DEATH OF CHEPKORIR

Five years ago, Mary Chepkorir Kiprotich, was killed by six General Service Unit officers during an operation to weed out illicit brews.

IPOA investigations found a police inspector, a corporal and four constables culpable of Chepkorir's death at her Laikipia home.

The Majiwa GSU camp officers had accompanied the local chief in an operation against the sale of illegal alcohol.

"Following investigations by the Independent Policing Oversight Authority and upon an independent review of the case files by the Director of Public Prosecutions, the officers will be charged with the murder of Ms Mary Chepkorir Kiprotich," Makori said.

The officers are Harrison Mwa (inspector), John Kimweli (corporal) and constables Linus Kipngetich, Joseph Mureithi, David Kipkemoi and Magdalene Nachapai.

"IPOA supports officers in maintaining law and order but will not hesitate to take action, in accordance with its mandate, on the few bad elements that break the same laws they are supposed to enforce," Makori said.

NAIROBI CEMETERY SCANDAL

Dead man's statement allowed in graft case

Nairobi City Council lost Sh283 million



Constable Beckham Osoro **/CORAZON WAFULA**

CAROLYNE KUBWA/ The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission can use the statement of a deceased key witness in the Sh283 million Nairobi cemetery scandal, the Appeal Court has ruled.

Appeal Court judges Daniel Musinga, Katembu Kairu and Kathurima M'inoti allowed the EACC's application that suspect Alphonce Mutinda had challenged.

He appealed against the ruling that allowed the use of the statement of Henry Musyoki Kilonzi, who died in July 2016.

In 2018 judge Hellen Ong'undi had allowed the EACC to use the statement since the dead man was the main witness in the case.

The judges said Ong'undi ruled the statement would be produced by the investigating officer "only to prove that the deceased gave the statement and nothing beyond that."

"We do not see how such a statement can be said to be prejudicial to the appellant if it were to be produced for the said purpose only," the Appeal Court ruled.

The judges said the statement had already been relied upon in the criminal case and the appellant has had a copy since August 2012.

"Production of the statement shall not breach the appellant's fundamental right to a fair trial as alleged," the judges ruled.

"We find this appeal lacking in merit and dismiss it," they ruled.

On November 2, 2017, the EACC sought to have the Musyoki's statement admitted as evidence without calling him as a witness.

All witness statements had long ago been served to Mutinda, who had since filed his defence. Musyoki died in July 2016 while the suit was pending.

EACC had filed a recovery suit against Mutinda arising from a transaction by the City Council of Nairobi that lost money in a fraudulent transaction. The council paid Sh283,200,200 to purchase land, L.R No.14759/2, which belonged to Musyoki (the deceased) for a public cemetery.

It turned out to be greatly overpriced and the soil unsuitable for a cemetery.

Musyoki had recorded and signed the statement on April 24, 2009, and testified as a prosecution witness in a related case on November 18, 2014.

DESPERATE

Akasha's wife to testify against pastor in Sh5m fraud case

MAUREEN MUDI/ The wife of convicted drug lord Baktash Akasha and two relatives will testify in a case in which she was allegedly conned out of Sh5 million by suspects promising to get him back from the US.

They allegedly posed as State House agents. A pastor, Chris Ngweti, was charged with obtaining the money by false pretences and conspiracy to defraud last year.

Najma Juma Hassan's lawyer, Kiogora Mugambi, said the first hearing against the pastor, who is out on bond, has been scheduled for May 27.

Ngweti was accused of conspiring to obtain money from Najma. The crime is said to have been committed between October 9 and November 15, 2018. Police said Ngweti pretended to be a State House agent authorised to assist the family secure extradition from the US to Kenya of Najma's husband Baktash and brother in law Ibrahim Akasha, after she paid Sh5,090,000.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Sh1 billion boost for NMS to curb spread of Covid-19 in city

MAUREEN KINYANJUI/ The Nairobi Metropolitan Services can now access Sh1.025 billion to fight the coronavirus pandemic in the city following the gazettement of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2020 on Tuesday.

However, Governor Mike Sonko says he is headed to court to challenge the gazettement which, he maintains, was not in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act.

The gazetted law allocates Sh15 billion to the NMS after the County Assembly re-aligned its budget following the transfer of four core functions to the national government.

The city government relinquished its control over health, planning and development, transport, public works and ancillary services from March 17.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Police killed 11, tortured 41 during curfew, says NGO

IMENDE BENJAMIN/ Police have killed 11 people and injured 30 while enforcing the curfew to curb the spread of the coronavirus, a human rights lobby has said.

In a report released on Tuesday, the Independent Medico-Legal Unit also said 41 people were tortured by police during the 7pm to 5am curfew period that started on March 27.

The curfew was meant to stop the spread of the virus and save lives but the number of those allegedly killed by police is slightly lower than the 14 people who have died of the disease.

Police spokesman Charles Owino did not pick calls or respond to text messages on Wednesday.

BURDEN

Respiratory diseases Kenya's biggest health threat — survey

They constituted 25% of reported disease incidence in public health facilities last year



JOHN MUCHANGI
@TheStarKenya



Lab technologist Joseph Muligwa performs a swab test for Covid -19 at the newly launched Nairobi West Hospital isolation centre yesterday /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

Respiratory diseases are the top causes of hospital visits in Kenya.

Such diseases, and diarrhoea, are also the leading causes of death in the country, according to the 2020 Economic Survey.

The survey shows that last year, respiratory illnesses formed 25 per cent of reported disease incidence in public health facilities.

The report bears the risk Kenya faces in combating Covid-19, which is more severe in populations affected by other respiratory illnesses.

Respiratory diseases may be caused by infection, smoking tobacco, or breathing in secondhand tobacco smoke and air pollution.

The next most common disease was malaria, whose burden increased by 18.6 per cent to 4.7 million cases in 2019.

"The lake stable endemic zone accounting for the largest number of cases at 74.4 per cent," the report produced by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reads.

Symptoms of upper respiratory tract infections include nasal congestions, running nose and sore throat.

In total, disease incidences as reported by public health facilities increased by 17.3 per cent to 87.8 million in 2019, the report reads.

For children, pneumonia accounted for the highest number of admissions at 18.7 per cent, followed by malaria at 9.9 per cent in 2019.

The report indicates there were 190,696 registered deaths in Kenya last year, 55.6 per cent of them being of men.

The report does not, however, give the causes of death, but according to the World Health Organization, diarrhoea remains the leading cause of death in Kenya, followed by influenza and pneumonia.

The report also shows obesity is now one of the diseases driving Kenyans to hospitals. It further shows the number of murder cases registered at the High Court increased to 1,171 in 2019, while convictions decreased to 243 in the same period.

The total number of murder cases registered in court increased by 10 per cent from 1,065 in 2018. However, there were 1,527 reported cases of murder in 2019 compared to 1,312 in 2018.

The Economic Survey released on Tuesday indicates that 1,275 males and 252 females were reported to have committed murder. Murder accounted for the highest share of homicides at 68.2 per cent in 2019.

BAD YEAR

Extreme weather caused decline in agriculture — study

GILBERT KOECHX/ The performance of agriculture decreased from 6.1 per cent in 2018 to 3.6 per cent last year, the latest survey shows.

The Economic Survey 2020, which was released on Tuesday, shows that the extreme weather characterised by drought during the first half of the year, followed by high rainfall in the second half of the year culminated in reduced production of selected crops.

"Maize production declined from 44.6 million bags in 2018 to 39.8 million bags in 2019 largely attributed to drought in several areas coupled with the fall armyworm infestation," the survey shows.

It states that tea production also decreased by 6.9 per cent to 458.5 thousand tonnes in 2019 from 493.0 thousand tonnes in 2018.

Cane deliveries to factories declined from 5.3 million tonnes in 2018 to 4.6 million tonnes last year.

However, the volume of horticultural exports increased by 1.8 per cent from 322.6 thousand tonnes in 2018 to 328.3 thousand tonnes in 2019.

Further, the survey shows, the quantities of milk deliveries made to dairy processors increased by 5.3 per cent from 634.3 million litres in 2018 to 668.2 million litres last year.

Milk prices per 100 litres decreased by 15 per cent from Sh3,530 in 2018 to Sh3,000 last year.

Earnings from sugarcane decreased by 16.6 per cent from Sh21 billion in 2018 to Sh17.6 billion in 2019, while pyrethrum earnings increased by 49.2 per cent from Sh26.2 million in 2018 to Sh39.1 million.

BIG FOUR AGENDA

Uhuru food security dream at risk as demand for agriculture courses drops

GILBERT KOECH/ One pillar of President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big Four agenda - food security- is at stake.

The Economic Survey 2020 released on Tuesday showed that the level of enrolment for agriculture courses in training institutions is dwindling.

President Kenyatta's administration seeks to place an additional 700,000 acres - including idle arable land - under maize, potato, rice, cotton, and aquaculture and feed production through a public-private partnership to enhance food security.

Uhuru also seeks to provide incentives for post-harvest technologies to reduce post-harvest losses from 20 per cent to 15 per cent.

However, the survey shows that the critical personnel to implement some of the strategies are shying away from courses offered in institutions of higher learning.

The survey notes that agricultural training is geared towards improving human skills to enhance the quality and quantity of agricultural productivity.

"The level of enrolment in training institutions is an indicator of the efforts put towards supporting the sector," the survey states.

The survey shows that there was a continued decline in student enrolment at degree level for the second year running from 18,165 in 2018 to 17,392 last year.

However, there was increased enrolment at diploma level. "Diploma level enrolment in agriculture courses at Egerton University increased by 51.6 per cent from 31 students in 2018 to 47 students in 2019. Total diploma level enrolment at Animal Health Training Institutes (AHTIs) increased by 26.9 per cent from 160 in 2018 to 203 in 2019," the survey says.

This was mainly from Kabete, which recorded a 35.4 per cent increase from 99 students in 2018 to 134 students in 2019. There was a slight decrease in diploma enrolment at Naivasha Dairy Training Institute from 41 students in 2018 to 39 students in 2019.



Eugene Mukhuana, a worker at Tamu Tamu Dishes, cleans tables and seats yesterday /FREDRICK OMONDI

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KWALE

TENDER NOTICE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/2020

The County Government of Kwale, department of Health Services wishes to invite interested and eligible bidders to submit their bids for the tenders listed here under;

S/NO	TENDER NO	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY
1	799407-2019-2020	supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of a CT scan machine for kinango sub county hospital	Open (Retendered)
2	800036-2019-2020	Proposed construction of a ward at mkongani Health center in mkongani ward	Open
3	800043-2019-2020	Proposed construction of a ward at Kwale sub county hospital	Open
4	790307-2019-2020	Supply and delivery of Lab reagents for kwale county health facilities	Open
5	755542-2	Proposed Construction of male ward at mnyenzeni dispensary in kasemeni ward	Open (Retendered)

The Tender documents are available at the County Government of kwale official website ***www.kwalecountygov.com*** or the government tender portal ***supplier. Treasury .go.ke*** or Public Procurement Information Portal (www.tenders.go.ke)

Dully filled tender documents to be submitted via the e-procurement module ***supplier. Treasury .go.ke*** **(IFMIS)** on or before the deadline i.e 18th May 2020 at 10:30 am .The tender for CT scan machine closes at 15th May 2020

Dr Juma. S. Mbete
CHIEF OFFICER,
HEALTH SERVICES

NEWS GENERAL

BREAKTHROUGH

Cost of once–a–year ARV a concern

Kenyan scientist Prof Benson Edagwa has unveiled ARV taken once in 12 months



JOHN MUCHANGI
@TheStarKenya

Advocates are concerned long-acting ARVs could be too expensive for most Kenyan patients, unless third parties cover the cost.

On Monday, Nature Materials, a leading peer-reviewed biomedical research journal, reported Kenyan scientist Prof Benson Edagwa has co-developed the world's first once-a year-therapy for HIV.

Scientists say the new injectable drug would be available within five years, after a successful clinical trial.

The development has raised questions whether Kenyans, who have the world's fourth-highest HIV burden, would afford the final product.

According to several modelling studies, the cost of most long-acting ARVs will be higher than that of the current daily pills.

Currently, it costs about Sh10,000–Sh20,000 a year to put one HIV-positive Kenyan on first-line generic ARVs, according to the Ministry of Health.

About 85 per cent of that cost is borne by donors, including the Global Fund and the US President's Emergency Plan For Aids Relief.

"We are likely to see a higher cost in Kenya now that we are a middle-income country," says Peter Mogere, the secretary general at the Kenya Pharmaceutical Association.

"As a country, we need self-sustenance and we need to see the national government increasing its budget for ARVs," he said.

HUMAN TESTING

Drug companies market their antiretroviral drugs at different prices, depending on the type of drug and the target consumers.

For instance, the triple therapy generic Dolutegravir costs about Sh7,500 a year in Kenya, but an almost identical therapy in the US costs $39,000 a year.

According to Nature Materials, the new therapy is a modification of an existing ARV drug — cabotegravir — and will be given as an injection once a year.

Prof Edagwa, a former Moi University chemistry student from Vihiga, co-developed the formulation with Prof Howard Gendelman, a virologist at the University of Nebraska Medical Centre.

The two scientists modified cabotegravir to enable the body to absorb and release it slowly from tissues over 12 months. "We know the drug is effective, the drug is safe," Edagwa said in an interview. "What we did, in this case, is enhance its half-life, also its effectiveness."



Above, pills on HIV–Aids background

Inset, Prof Benson Edagwa, a Kenyan chemist working on HIV cure at the University of Nebraska during an interview in Nairobi on July 16 last year
/ DOUGLAS OKIDDY

The university said they have also begun collecting the requirements necessary to obtain US Food and Drug Administration approval to eventually enter the market.

However, the new drug formulation, which is safe and effective in animals, has to be tested in humans.

"Human testing has not begun, but the development necessary to achieve this goal is ongoing, with the assistance of scientists from the Clinton Health Access Initiative," UNMC said.

Experts say it would take about three to five years from now before it is available in the market, after successful clinical trials.

Long-acting HIV prevention tools come in the form of injectable drugs, intravaginal rings, implants and injectable antibodies. However, none of these has been licensed for use yet.

A study carried out in 2018 show that long-acting ART will be costlier at an annual drug cost of between Sh4 million ($40 000)– Sh7 million ($70 000) in the US.

"Because no LA-ART regimens are currently licensed, we did not assign one cost to LA-ART," say authors of the study published in Clinical Infectious Diseases journal.

"Instead, we evaluated the cost-effectiveness of LA-ART at costs ranging from $20 000 to $80 000 to determine the maximum cost at which each LA-ART strategy would be cost-effective at a willingness to pay of $100 000/QALY (quality-adjusted life year)."

> JAMES KAMAU
>
> *The question is: Why would we jump to a once-a-year ARV when we haven't gotten a once a month one?*

DRUG IS STABLE

Head of the Kenya Treatment Access Movement James Kamau said the one-a-year drug is welcome as it would take away the daily pill burden.

Kamau was, however, concerned that it could erode other gains like viral load monitoring, which is carried out routinely when patients go to pick their ARVs.

"The question is: Why would we jump to a once-a-year ARV when we haven't gotten a once a month one?"

The US research process is bankrolled by the Clinton Health Access Initiative, the non-profit that also supports malaria treatment in Kenya.

"The UNMC has developed the world's first potential yearlong antiretroviral for HIV prevention by converting a month-long ARV drug into a once-per-year therapeutic. CHAI has worked with UNMC to show that the drug is stable and can be formulated for future human injections," CHAI said in a statement.



According to the Nature Material's article, the reformulated drug provides a high degree of protection against vaginal, rectal, parenteral and penile challenges with simian-HIV strains, which affirms its future use as PrEP for people at high risk for sexual HIV-1 exposure and for intravenous drug users.

ARVs are well-proven to suppress HIV if taken consistently by infected people. This means the new long-acting ARV can act both as a vaccine for negative people and treatment for those already infected.

"CAB LA (cabotegravir long-acting) formulations can meet the challenge of therapeutic regimen adherence in broad patient groups, which include children, adolescents and pregnant and postpartum women," says the article, titled "A year-long extended release nanoformulated cabotegravir prodrug".

HIV BURDEN

Limitations of the new drug include the lack of activity against major co-infections, such as hepatitis B virus, and potential drug–drug interactions.

Nelson Otuoma, head of Nephak, a network of people living with HIV, also welcomed the development.

"It's good progress although it may take time before it's available in Kenya," he told the Star.

The cabotegravir drug or CAB was originally developed by ViiV Healthcare, a pharmaceutical subsidiary of GlaxoSmithKline that specialises in the development of therapies for HIV infection.

Edagwa and Gendelman created the year-long-acting medicine by chemically converting cabotegravir into a nanocrystal and allowing the body's own enzymes to slowly convert the modified drug into an active form that can be slowly released from tissue stores.

Kenya has the fourth-largest HIV epidemic in the world with 1.5 million people living with HIV in 2019.

The virus is spreading fastest among the youth, who also report the highest levels of non-adherence to the rigorous daily pill schedule.

NEWS GENERAL

SPECULATIVE MESSAGES

Mudavadi accuses Magoha of poor leadership during Covid

Says the Education ministry has only made random and ad hoc pronouncements



ALLAN KISIA
@TheStarKenya

ANC party leader Musalia Mudavadi has accused Education CS George Magoha of failing to provide leadership in the sector in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This comes after the CS extended the closure of schools by a month.

Mudavadi criticised Magoha for sending "speculative messages" on learning as the future of some 1.2 million KCPE and 700,000 KCSE candidates hangs in the balance.

"So far, the Ministry of Education has only made random and ad hoc pronouncements," he said in a statement.

"These casual and abrupt statements have mostly been given on the sidelines of Ministry of Health briefings on Covid-19."

Mudavadi said the statements by the CS have only left the country confused and in limbo.

He said education is the mother of all the other sectors and must demonstrate the highest levels of planning and informed action and set the bar for other ministries.

"We must avoid the habit of decrees and lone ranger approaches that the Ministry of Education is used to," he said.

The ANC leader said Magoha needs to constitute a team comprising officials from the ministry, the Teachers Service Commission, teachers' unions and the Kenya National Examination Council.



Education CS George Magoha /**MERCY MUMO**



ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi /**FILE**

They will also need to work with high-level representation from the Health ministry and Treasury, he said.

On April 26, Magoha announced a one-month extension to the nationwide closure of schools and learning institutions. The CS said the earliest schools could open is on June 5.

He spoke at the daily government briefing on Covid-19, where he further reiterated that the government had not yet considered postponing the KCPE and KCSE examinations.

Mudavadi further said Kenyans do not know of any packages of measures the ministry has made for parents, teachers and learners to facilitate, equalise and monitor home learning.

"We have heard government officials say that learning is going on online. They have also said national examinations will go on as was scheduled at the start of the year," he said.

He pointed out that not every learner has access to radio or television and the Internet. "Even those who can physically access these facilities are challenged with the cost of activating them," he said.

Mudavadi said syllabuses have not been covered and may not be covered. "Our exam-based education is about syllabuses. We cannot change direction in the midstream to pretend that all is well when we know that exam syllabuses will not be covered," he said.

He further pointed out that some schools, colleges and universities have been earmarked as isolation centres for Covid-19.

LONG QUEUES WITNESSED

Buruburu resident burnt beyond recognition in his car

The victim was preparing to leave for work at 8.30am when the incident happened



Terance Korir /**COURTESY**

ANDREW KASUKU/ Police are probing the circumstances under which a man burnt to death inside his car in Buruburu Phase 5, Nairobi, yesterday.

Private security guards manning Mai Mahiu Court along Katulo Road reported a car that was burning at the parking yard.

Nairobi county firefighters were called to put out the fire, which had destroyed the interior of the Subaru Impreza registration number KBY 779M.

"Upon search, there was a body of one male adult who lives in house number 465 next to the parking yard, namely Terance Korir, aged 36 years," read a police report from Buruburu police station.

Korir, who is believed to be the owner of the car, was burned beyond recognition.

The victim was preparing to leave for work at 8.30am when the incident happened.

There was speculation the fire was caused by a sanitiser inside the car.

"Since the onset of Covid-19, we have been carrying and interacting with a highly flamable and very volatile chemical in the name of sanitiser," some netizens said.

"If you leave it in the car, the ethanol can vaporise and fill up the car, and on car ignition, it causes a serious fire, which can be life-threatening."

However, Buruburu subcounty police commander Adamson Bungei told the Star the claims that a sanitiser inside the car caused the fire have not been confirmed.

"The circumstances surrounding the incident are not known. For now, we are treating it as a fire incident," he said, adding that investigations are underway.

The victim is survived by a widow and two children.

20-YEAR SENTENCE

Court dismisses wife killer's appeal

ANNETTE WAMBULWA/ A man who killed his wife nine years ago after he found her having sex with another man in the bush will continue serving his 20-year sentence.

The appellate court threw out his appeal. Mdoe Kombe was sentenced and convicted in 2018 on the lesser offence of manslaughter after the High Court found that he indeed killed his wife Kwekwe Nyanje.

Kombe had been charged with murdering Kwekwe on October 4, 2011, at about 4pm in Majugwani village, Mwereni location, Kwale county.

Kombe had admitted to having killed his wife. However, he stated that it was because he had found her having sex with another man in a bush.

He allegedly chased the man and his wife escaped to her parents' home, where he had found her and stabbed her to death.

The trial court ruled that the husband was provoked into committing the offence. It convicted him of manslaughter instead of murder, and sentenced him to 20 years behind bars.

DESTROYED ENVIRONMENT

Beware of more landslides, Met warns regions



Kenya Meteorological Services director Stella Aura /**ANDREW KASUKU**

GILBERT KOECH AND JOHN MUCHANGI/ The weatherman has warned of possible landslides in parts of Mt Kenya, the Aberdares and Western.

Head of the Meteorological Department Stella Aura said the regions were most vulnerable due to topography and the ongoing heavy rains.

"People living in landslide-prone areas, especially on the slopes of the Aberdare Ranges, Mt Kenya, Western Kenya and other hilly areas, should look out for cracks in the ground and take the necessary measures to safeguard their lives and property," she said in a statement.

At least 30 people have so far been killed in flooding-related incidents.

More than 3,000 people have been displaced, according to county governments and the Kenya Red Cross Society.

Yesterday, the National Environment Complaints Committee blamed poor land use practices and wanton destruction of the environment for the flooding.

The environmental watchdog said uncontrolled sand harvesting and quarrying had worsened matters.

UNIQUE PRODUCT

Safaricom mulls Sh20 a day 4G smartphone

Package to upgrade customers from 2G

MARTIN MWITA/ You will soon be able to pay Sh20 a day for a smartphone in a new plan by Safaricom to offer affordable devices across the country.

The telco yesterday announced plans to launch the daily payment plan which will enable customers to own 4G smartphones.

According to Safaricom, the package is aimed at empowering customers currently on 2G devices to upgrade and enjoy high-speed internet connectivity. The package is in partnership with Google and is based on insights and learnings from the Maisha Ni Digital campaign that saw over 1 million customers acquiring 4G enabled devices. The new campaign seeks to empower an extra one million customers to upgrade to 4G enabled devices in this financial year.

According to CEO Peter Ndegwa, smartphone devices are critical in supporting the new realities brought about by COVID-19.

"This proposition aims to support Kenyans during and beyond this pandemic by enabling them access more opportunities, be it learning, working or running businesses from the comfort of their homes," said Ndegwa.

More details on the package will be released by the end of this quarter, the telco said yesterday.

"We believe that this collaboration with Safaricom will bring more Kenyans access and the means to partake in the opportunities that exist online," said Mariama Abdullahi, director, Android and Platforms Partnerships for Africa C1 – Public.

Majority of Kenyans access the internet via mobile broadband according to the communication authority data which shows mobile data subscriptions, as of December, stood at 39.2 million. Approximately 60 per cent of the mobile phone install base is still on 2G feature phones and 40 per cent smartphones with key barriers to people coming online being device and data affordability.

"With continued expansion of 3G, 4G and fiber optic, more Kenyans will be connected to better quality broadband services," CA notes.



Welder David Odhiambo working at his workshop in Mathare along Juja Road / WILFRED NYANGARESI

MELTDOWN

Kenya's economic growth likely to shrink to 1%, says World Bank

Reduced growth is expected across services, industry and agriculture sector



MARTIN MWITA
@MwitaMartin

Kenya's economy will grow by 1.5 per cent in 2020 according to the World Bank, painting an even grimmer picture than that given by the National Treasury.

Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani, while launching the Economic Survey 2020 on Tuesday placed the growth at between 1.8 per cent and 2.5 per cent.

This coming at a time when the survey shows that the economy shrunk to 5.4 per cent in 2019 from 6.3 per cent in 2018.

The bank had previously projected a 6 percent growth.

In its latest Kenya Economic Update (KEU) released yesterday, the global lender warned that if the Covid-19 related disruptions continue, growth could further contract to 1.0 per cent.

The virus impact is expected to reduce growth across services, industry, and agriculture, the global lender said.

"Economic growth projection remains highly uncertain and the outcome will hinge on how the pandemic plays out internationally and within Kenya, along with policy actions taken to mitigate the situation," it said.

Despite government tax and stimulus packages for the private sector, key sub-sectors remain exposed, according to the bank.

Policy measures such as working from home, travel restrictions, the closure of schools, the suspension of public gatherings, and a nightly curfew, have been termed necessary to delay the spread while the country ramps-up investment in its healthcare systems.

Nonetheless, they are also quite costly to the economy by reducing social interaction, production, and demand across all sectors, World Bank said.

"We recognize that Kenya must balance between reducing the spread of the virus and cushioning Kenyans particularly informal workers and youth who make up 70 per cent of the population from the adverse economic effects posed by Covid-19," said Felipe Jaramillo, World Bank Country Director for Kenya.

"In partnership with other development partners, we are supporting the government of Kenya through financing and technical advice to strengthen its health systems capacity to contain the spread Covid-19," Jaramillo added.

The hardship from the crisis would disproportionately befall the poorest and the most vulnerable households in Kenya, World Bank warns.

Many of these depend on farming (for the rural), self-employment, and informal wage (for the urban).

According to experts at the global lender, protecting earnings and reaching households through cash transfers is considerably more challenging due to a nascent system of social safety nets, lack of proper physical address system, and updated welfare registers.

It is critical, therefore, for the country to scale up available social assistance programmes to provide poor households with food, water, and other basic supplies to cope with the crisis, World Bank has advised.

THE DATA

107.2750

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

The Kenyan shilling was flat on Wednesday amid thin demand for hard currency from importers in the energy and others sectors.

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Buy	Sell	Mean
US DOLLAR	107.1753	107.3747	107.2750
STG POUND	133.8335	134.1241	133.9788
SA RAND	5.7558	5.7691	5.7625
KES / USHS	35.3901	35.5492	35.4697
KES / TSHS	21.5041	21.6374	21.5708
JPY (100)	100.4454	100.6512	100.5483
IND RUPEE	1.4136	1.4163	1.4149
EURO	116.5512	116.7982	116.6747
CHINESE YUAN	15.1414	15.1781	15.1598
AE DIRHAM	29.1784	29.2335	29.2060

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
KAKUZI	341.00	10.00
SCAN GROUP	16.95	7.62
KENYA AIRWAYS	0.91	5.81
HOME AFRIKA	0.40	5.26
E. A BREWRIES	161.25	4.88

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
NATION MEDIA GROUP	21.00	9.68
KENGEN	4.50	7.98
NSE	9.00	6.05
JUBILEE HOLDINGS	270.00	3.23
LIBERTY HOLDINGS	8.40	1.18

Harvard Business Review

TIP OF THE DAY

FOCUS YOUR WRITING WITH THESE 3 TIPS

Writing under deadline pressure is always a challenge, but all that last–minute tinkering ultimately won't help much if your larger message isn't clear. Replacing the word "purchase" with "buy" would be like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. Instead, follow these three tips. First, ask yourself: Do I get right to the point? You need to lead with your central message to focus your reader's attention. Give enough detail to contextualize your main point and cut the rest. Second, make sure your topic sentences — the first lines of each paragraph — give the reader a sense of what's coming. These lines shouldn't just be descriptive , they need to communicate the most important information. Third, use active voice, not passive voice, whenever possible. Jack made a mistake is better than A mistake was made . If you use these three strategies during, you shouldn't need to do as much last–minute tinkering in the future.

SLOWDOWN

High labour costs and material hurt growth in construction sector

Economic survey shows sector grew 6.4%

SUSAN NYAWIRA / The construction sector registered a slight drop in growth as cost of labour and material went higher, the 2020 Economic Survey shows.

The sector recorded a 6.4 per cent growth in 2019 compared to of 6.9 per cent in 2018.

The cost of materials for residential and non-residential buildings increased by 6.5 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively.

Similarly, labour cost recorded an increase of 4.5 per cent in 2019 compared to 5.3 per cent in 2018.

The percentage change in cost of materials was 5.7 per cent in 2019 compared to 3.1 per cent in 2018.

Loans and advances from commercial banks to the construction sector grew by 1.6 per cent from Sh114billion in 2018 to Sh115.8 billion in 2019.

The affordable housing pillar in the President's Big Four Agenda saw the number of completed public residential buildings increase from 450 units to 530 units.

5,134 housing units are currently under construction by the National Housing Corporation and the State Department of Housing of which 4,700 housing units commenced in 2019.

Total number of completed private residential and nonresidential buildings by NCC went up to 13,976 units in 2019 compared to 12,725 units in 2018. Index of Government expenditure on roads increased from 415.4 to 456.8 due to major road projects undertaken in 2019.



Workers at a National Housing Corporation project in Nairobi/**JACK OWUOR**

During the same period, the index of reported public building works completed declined by 32.6 per cent from 59.4 points to 39.0 points.

The index of reported private building works completed in Nairobi City County increased by 3.5 per cent from 466.2 points in 2018 to 482.3 points in 2019

The Government has continually invested in the construction and rehabilitation of road infrastructure across the country in order to spur economic growth.

FOCUSED

Safaricom firm on Ethiopia entry

The telco yesterday reported a 19.5 per cent rise in profit to Sh74.70 billion



MARTIN MWITA
@MwitaMartin

Safaricom is determined to enter the Ethiopia market despite protectionism in the neighbouring country aimed at shielding its state corporations.

Ethiopia's central bank recently said it would only allow locally-owned financial institutions to offer mobile money services, leaving Safaricom with a GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) option only.

New directives have however opened the market for players in other sectors of the economy, CEO Peter Ndegwa said yesterday, which gives the telco a chance to bid for a license most likely to be done through a consortium.

"We will consider a partnership with other entities in Ethiopia," Ndegwa said in a post investor briefing conference call.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed telco yesterday reported a 19.5 per cent rise in earnings for the year ended March 31, where net profit closed at Sh74.70 billion.

This is up from Sh62.49 billion posted in a similar period last year.

During the period, service revenue grew 4.8 per cent to Sh251.22 billion up from Sh 239.77 billion last year.

The growth was mainly propelled by Voice and M-Pesa which accounted for 34.5 per cent and 33.6 per cent of the service revenues in the year respectively. M-Pesa revenue grew by 12.6 per cent to Sh84.44billion. Voice service revenue shrunk by 1.4 per cent to Sh94.45billion, but remained the biggest earner for the telco.



L-R:Safaricom chairman Nicholas Ng'ang'a, CEO Peter Ndegwa and CFO Sateesh Kamath after 2020/21 results announcement at the Michael Joseph centre in Nairobi on April 2 /**COURTESY**

Messaging revenue also declined by 12.3 per cent to Sh17.19 billion. Mobile data revenue however increased by 12.1 per cent to Sh40.67 billion.

"We expect a drop in voice and SMS going forward as people shift more into data and applications such as WhatsApp," Chief Financial Officer Sateesh Kamath said.

Safaricom is keen to tap into the 100 million population-Ethiopian market as part of its regional growth.

Yesterday, Ndegwa said the firm will be bidding for a general telecommunication license in a planned upcoming auction, which could, however, delay as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rights to operate mobile money will, however, be sought through a partner, if it fails to secure a solo deal.

"The initial timeframe for the auction was this year but it is likely to be postponed," Ndegwa said.

The firm is targeting both voice, data, and mobile money businesses in the country that has attracted other Kenyan institutions such as KCB and Equity Group.

The Ethiopian Communications Authority has drafted several directives that guide the issuance of telecommunications service licenses pursuant to the new Telecommunications Regulatory Framework.

A fourteen-day stakeholder consultation on the directives commenced on Tuesday (April 28) and will run until May 11, 2020, the Ethiopian Communications Authority announced. The directives touch on telecommunications licensing, consumers' rights and protection, and dispute resolution.

"We will review all submissions we receive and will consider the comments in adopting the Directives," the authority notes.

Safaricom is competing for a stake of the Ethiopian market against global telcos such as MTN, Orange, Etisalat, and Zain as Ethiopia plans to award permits later this year, opening the country's telecoms market to foreign investment for the first time.



EXPERT COMMENT

KAREN KANDIE

Ensuring Africa's Recovery post-COVID-19

The unprecedented disruption of global supply chains caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may herald the worst economic recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Indeed, financial distress signals are being issued by numerous global industries, including aviation, manufacturing, tourism and extractives.

This has necessitated governments, particularly in advanced economies, to offer massive trillion-dollar corporate bailouts with a view to support struggling industries during these challenging times. Case in point, the USA recently announced a series of aid packages amounting in excess of USD 3 trillion that included up to USD 1 trillion set aside to support business interests, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The rescue of struggling industries, especially in advanced economies, is laudable. However, it is also notable that the same may not be possible in the African context due to financial and institutional constraints. Simply put, African economies may not have the financial muscle to prop ailing industries from the worst economic impacts of COVID-19. However, other measures aimed at protecting African industries have been considered and implemented — for instance the reduction of tax obligations and the consideration of moratoriums with respect to debt obligations.

In the Kenyan context, the Tax Laws (Amendment) Act 2020, for example, aims, inter alia, to reduce the corporate income tax rate to 25 per cent to cushion corporations from the worst of COVID-19. While the above measures will have a positive impact in the short and medium-term, it is necessary for global policymakers to consider proactive measures that will protect economies against the long-term effects of COVID-19. In the African context, this presents us with an opportunity to not only tackle institutional short-comings exposed by the pandemic but further strengthen Africa's domestic industries and continental integration thereby making the continent less reliant on external support.

Among Africa's key institutional shortcomings that have been exposed by the pandemic is Africa's reliance on imported medication and medical equipment, primarily from India and China. Consequently, Africa's health sector is highly vulnerable to external shocks. A possible solution to this vulnerability is two-fold — on the one hand, Africa needs to invest in vulnerable industries to reduce reliance on imported products. Positive progress is being made in this regard, with locally developed medical and pharmaceutical products being put to market in order to combat the pandemic.

Karen Kandie — MD IDB Capital

NEWS WORLD

IN MIDDLE OF A LOCKDOWN

Fears rise for illegal S Africa miners hiding underground

Zama-zamas had little choice but to continue working, worried about being arrested if they surfaced and knowing there was no other work

REUTERS / At least 100 illegal gold miners in South Africa are hiding underground, too scared to surface with police on patrol to enforce the coronavirus lockdown, according to industry sources.

Many illegal miners, known as zama-zamas – a Zulu expression for "taking a chance" – were underground in abandoned or disused mines in Gauteng province when the lockdown began on March 27.

Lawyers, activists and illegal miners told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that zama-zamas had little choice but to continue working, worried about being arrested if they surfaced and knowing there was no other work.

"They are struggling to get to the surface (to buy food) as police are blocking the entrances and they fear arrest," said Johannesburg gold miner Zach, whose name was changed to protect his identity.

"At least 100 (zama-zamas) that I know of are trying to earn some money during the lockdown," said Zach, 29, adding he had been arrested many times since turning to mining six years ago.

Illegal gold mining has plagued South Africa's mining companies for decades, robbing the industry and state coffers of billions of rand through smalltime pilfering as well as networks run by organised crime.

The Minerals Council South Africa estimates seven tonnes of gold - from total national production of about 135 tonnes - is lost each year to illegal mining, which is driven by the joblessness and economic hardship that prevail across the country.



Security guards keep watch at the entrance of the Lily mine, which is owned by Vantage Goldfields, near Barberton, east of Johannesburg, on February 5, 2016 / REUTERS

HUNGER OR ARREST

Thousands of zama-zamas are thought to be operating at any one time, many of them undocumented immigrants from neighbouring countries who provided migrant labour for South Africa's mines in the past but were then laid off.

Zama-zamas are now a permanent fixture of the shanties that ring Johannesburg and its satellite towns along the gold reef, and are blamed for outbreaks of violence, including underground shoot-outs between rival gangs.

Once the largest gold producer, South Africa now ranks about eighth globally with mining accounting for roughly seven per cent of GDP.

The sector braced for a heavy hit when the government last month ordered most underground mines and furnaces to be put into care and maintenance due to the coronavirus.

But after a lobbying campaign by miners, it said it would allow mines to operate at up to half capacity during the lockdown, recognising the chance of instability if deep-level mines closed for a long period.

Informal mining has continued nevertheless as it remains largely unrecognised by the government - just like many zama-zamas, who are unable to seek financial assistance, legal experts said.

Edwin Makwati, a lawyer from the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg said that "artisanal miners depend on mining to feed their families but they are categorised as criminals".



A demonstrator sits on the ground in front of Lebanese police officers during a protest against growing economic hardship in Beirut, Lebanon, on April 28 / REUTERS

CURRENCY COLLAPSED

Lebanon cities erupt against economic hardship, one killed

REUTERS / Protests against growing economic hardship erupted in Tripoli and spread to other Lebanese cities on Tuesday, with banks set ablaze and violence boiling over into a second night.

One demonstrator was killed in riots overnight Monday, according to security and medical sources, as a collapse in the currency, soaring inflation and spiralling unemployment convulse Lebanon, a country in deep financial crisis since October. A shutdown to fight the new coronavirus has made matters worse for the economy.

A SHUTDOWN TO FIGHT THE NEW CORONAVIRUS HAS MADE MATTERS WORSE FOR THE ECONOMY

AND FLY-PAST

Israelis mark independence day with flags on rooftops

REUTERS / Military jets flew in formation over Tel Aviv's deserted parks and streets yesterday, cheered on from rooftops by flag-waving residents in masks as Israel marked its independence day under lockdown.

In a normal year, locals would celebrate the day by flocking to beaches and other public spaces for barbecues, and to soak up the sun. The government has begun to ease some curbs to contain its coronavirus epidemic, but it reimposed mandatory curfews for the back-to-back Memorial Day and Independence Day holidays.

TURNS 100 TODAY

Birthday tributes flood in for fundraising British veteran

REUTERS /British World War Two veteran Captain Tom Moore is in for a very special 100th birthday today after well-wishers from around the world repaid his record-breaking fundraising efforts by sending tens of thousands of birthday cards.

Moore has raised more than £29 million (Sh3.9 billion) for the National Health Service by completing laps of his garden with the help of a walking frame. People tuned in from across the globe to watch his progress online, turning Moore into an unexpected focal point for a flood of donations to the state-funded healthcare system which is handling the deadly coronavirus outbreak.



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his partner Carrie Symonds on March 7, 2020 / REUTERS

EARLIER THAN EXPECTED

UK's Boris, fiancee welcome baby boy

REUTERS/ British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's fiancée, Carrie Symonds, gave birth to a healthy baby boy at a London hospital yesterday, slightly earlier than had been expected.

Symonds, 32, had said previously that their baby was due to "hatch" in the early summer. It was not clear if Johnson, 55, would take paternity leave given the government is facing the worst health crisis since the 1918 influenza outbreak.

"The Prime Minister and Ms Symonds are thrilled to announce the birth of a healthy baby boy at a London hospital earlier this morning," a spokeswoman said. "Both mother and baby are doing very well.

"The PM and Ms Symonds would like to thank the fantastic NHS maternity team."

There was no announcement of a name.

The new arrival tops a tumultuous month for Johnson; he returned to work on Monday after recuperating from Covid-19, which had left him gravely ill in intensive care at the peak of the coronavirus outbreak.

SHUT THE FACT UP



THE MORNING KISS
WEEKDAYS FROM 6 - 10AM

KISS 100.3 FM
KENYA'S NO.1 HIT STATION

kiss100.co.ke

VOICES



Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund chairperson Jane Karuku receives a Sh20 million donation from KenGen managing director Rebecca Miano in Nairobi yesterday
/COURTESY

LETTERS

Send your views to **letters@the-star.co.ke**

Jubilee politicians should focus on Covid-19, not 2022

Kenyans are individually and/ or collectively engaged in the fight against the spread of Covid-19.

Ironically, as the rest of the country focuses on fighting this global pandemic, a section of the ruling Jubilee Party is engaged in a back and forth push over its control ostensibly to position themselves for 2022. This is very outrageous.

Both Kiweleweke and Tangatanga factions are demonstrating poor leadership as they engage in a supremacy battle, instead of coming up with ways to complement government's efforts in tackling the pandemic.

As we said before, 'true leadership is demonstrated in times of turbulence.' It is disrespectful to the voters for these politicians to be preoccupied with petty party politics when Kenyans are languishing in uncertainty and facing bleak future. They are forgetting that if we don't flatten the curve, soon, they will have nobody to vote for them so they can have a party to brag about.

At a time like now, leaders should unite and focus on improving the health sector infrastructure so we can attend to victim of Covid-19. Our MPs should show empathy to the suffering Kenyans.

Any leader talking about politics of succession and the 2022 elections is not only out of touch with reality but also insensitive to what Kenyans are going through. Businesses are closing down, jobs are being lost and all what the MPs can think about is how to safeguard their interest in Jubilee Party?

Instead of engaging in cheap politics, the legislators should use their energies and the privileged position they enjoy to lobby for free face masks at least for the vulnerable Kenyans as well as legislate laws to cushion Kenyans from the worsening social-economic environment. They should lead by examples by taking pay cuts so as to contribute to the national kitty that was established to coordinate donations and other forms of aid. This is the time to demonstrate selflessness and servant leadership.

Covid-19 pandemic is painfully showing Kenyans who their genuine leaders are. The loud political noises that had characterised BBI rallies have now been replaced by conspiracy of silence. The guys who reminded us of their titles are now mute. This shows our political leaders have no other agenda apart from 2022 succession politics. Theirs is political survival. With the Covid-19 uncertainty, they are now clueless. When the dust settles, Kenyans will take stock and be wiser.

Granted, if this was a campaign year, market places would be littered with coloured portraits with aspirant photos asking for votes.

ASHFORD GIKUNDA AND DIANA ROSS AWUOR
Masters students at UoN

Safaricom should consider waiving withdrawal charges

I laud Safaricom for their gesture whereby sending Sh1, 000 is free, as one of teh measures to cushion Kenyans. For the poor and those who mostly transact this amount, it has been a welcome move. However, withdrawing charges are still in place and it will cost you Sh28. I would request the telco giant to consider making it free to withdraw M-Pesa amounts less than Sh1,00. The Sh28 withdrawal charge is not cheap. For this Covid-19 season, Safaricom can make sending and withdrawal free but limit frequency per day. This is not too much to ask for a company that has just posted a Sh74.7 billion net profit for the year ending March 31.

KAMICHORE MUTINDIRA
Nairobi

Why retrogressive politics transpires even in hard times

We are going through the darkest period in post-independence history which could see our ravaged economy get on the skids.Companies are laying off or furloughing their employees, SMEs are going under and a consuming uncertainty hangs over many households. As a result, governments across the world are desperately racing against time to cushion their citizens against the effect of Covid-19 pandemic.So far, the Kenyan government has averagely mobilised its resources to attempt to rescue its most vulnerable citizens. Having said that, retrogressive politics could undermine national focus on the situation. No one needs to be reminded of the gravity of this pandemic.First, there is the ongoing cold war in the ruling Jubilee Party where the Deputy President William Ruto has put up a spirited fight against an alleged attempt to chase him out of the Party.Two, following seemingly irreconcilable differences between President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Deputy President, we're learning of a plan, through the media, to create a government of national unity bringing on board among others, opposition leader Raila Odinga and Kanu's Gideon Moi. Such politics of self-preservation in the face of a global health crisis of this nature is a gaffe, contemptuous of the plight of ordinary Kenyans.These developments also reinforce the notion that politicians are self-seeking individuals who will do everything to preserve themselves. Which is why our leaders are struggling to concentrate on the situation at hand. Why initiate a political crisis at a time when we, and indeed the whole world, is battling a public health emergency that has a potential of wiping out the entire country? Can't we get our priorities right?

JOHN OUMA
Journalism student at Multimedia

VOX POP

COMPILED BY **FAITH MATETE**

Are you eating too much when working from home?



Yes: When working from home, the first thing that comes to your mind is food, until the fridge runs empty.

CLETUS NGURE
Kisumu



Yes: I have noticed that when you're just seated doing nothing, you become hungry faster as compared to when you are engaged.

OLUOCH BEN
Kisumu



Yes: That is normal and my family members are allowed to do that, as long as they follow the government directive to stop the spread of the virus.

POLYCARP OMONDI
Kisumu



Yes: The closer I am to food, the more the appetite. I am finishing the food even before the lockdown, in case it will be ordered.

RODGERS ADUDA
Kisumu

★ WORD IS...

WORDIS@THE-STAR.CO.KE



Sauti Sol /COURTESY

SOCIALBYTE
WITH ELIZABETH NGIGI
@nyambs_liz

The Kenya Film Classification Board has dismissed concerns that Sauti Sol's hit *Suzanna* is promoting incest.

An unknown person had sent a complaint saying, "Sauti Sol's hit 'Suzanna', alias 'Senje', should be banned by KFCB.

"Senje is Luhya for aunt — sister of your father. How then can it be that a nephew and his aunt have a relationship? To fall in love with your father's sister is unheard of, incestuous, an abomination and illegal."

The complainant argued the song would corrupt the youth.

Upon receiving the complaint, KFCB did an analysis through the board's broadcast monitoring team and concluded that the song does not in any way promote incest.

When Sauti Sol got wind that their song was under review, they posted, "So someone sent a complaint to KFCB early today that 'Suzanna' promotes incest. But why. These streets aren't safe."

Lilian Muli to visit a park for birthday



ELIZABETH NGIGI @nyambs_liz/ Lilian Muli is already in her birthday mood. She will be turning a year older on May 4, and this year, she is planning to just chill or go to the park.

She said this while replying to a fan who sought to know her plans. Reminiscing on her last year's birthday, Lilian shared memories of her past year's birthday.

One of the videos was when Bongo star Harmonize left her shedding tears after he surprised her on air.

She was pregnant with her son Liam.

Lilian wrote; "...no wonder Liam is a dancing baby he Loves to dance. @harmonize_tz sang for me... I cried me a river... can't wait for my birthday it's Birthday week and I am so excited."

Adding, "Just so blessed and thankful that God continues to be so faithful. I don't have much but he has given me the grace to be content with what I have."

For more Word Is stories scan the QR code above.

COURT UPHOLDS 'RAFIKI' BAN, SAYS IT PROTECTS MORALITY

ELIZABETH NGIGI @TheStarKenya/ Wanuri Kahiu's movie *Rafiki* will remain banned in Kenya. This is after the judge's ruling yesterday.

Hon Justice JA Makau ruled that the ban does not in any way violate artistic freedom of expression but instead protects the society from moral decay.

In his judgment, he stated that the petitioners failed to prove how the existence of these sections of the law violated the right of expression.

The judge further stated that the jurisdiction of the court was prematurely invoked.

"Freedom of expression is not absolute but subject to limitations under article 24, and the discretion of the Kenya Film Classification Board to restrict Rafiki is constitutional," he said.

Wanuri, the writer/director and co-producer of 'Rafiki', said that under article 22 (1) of the 2010 Constitution, every person has the right to institute court proceedings, claiming that a right or fundamental freedom in the Bill of Rights has been denied, violated or infringed. "We proudly exercised this right," she said.

She added that for over 50 years, retrogressive laws have suppressed bold artistic expression, criminalised art and artists, and even seen Kenya lose some of her greatest minds and talent.

"We will continue to fight against laws that have no place in our democratic Kenyan society," she said.

Prof Kimani Njogu, member of the Creative Economy Working Group (CEWG), the second petitioner, said, "We must respect and uphold the Constitution of Kenya as sacrosanct.

"Unfortunately, today the court has lost an opportunity to protect creatives from overt government censorship and turn the tide by creating a freer space to allow the exchange of ideas in Kenya."



Rafiki producer Wanuri /COURTESY

In 2018, Wanuri and CEWG filed a lawsuit against KFCB to challenge the unconstitutionality of the ban against freedom of expression and artistic freedom.

The CEWG has vowed to continue to pursue redress through the courts and will be filing an appeal in the Court of Appeal.



Hamisa Mobetto /COURTESY

Diamond allowed Hamisa to feature in Alikiba's song

ELIZABETH NGIGI @nyambs_liz/ Hamisa Mobetto asked for permission from her baby daddy Diamond Platnumz to feature as a video vixen in Alikiba's new hit *Dodo*.

Well, Diamond and Alikiba are music rivals and so when he did a song with Hamisa fans criticised Alikiba's motive for working with her with the full knowledge of her past with Diamond.

In a recent Instagram live, Alikiba set the record straight on his relationship with the mother of two.

He said he has been friends with Hamisa for years, but never felt the need to publicise it.

In a recent interview, Diamond said he has no problem with that and that before she went for the video shoot, she spoke to him about it just after Alikiba requested for her presence in his video.

"First of all, Alikiba has every right to use anyone as his video vixen and so does my baby mama, Hamisa, she has every right to be in any video," Diamond said.

"I thought it was courtesy to let you know so that when you see the video, you are not left wondering if there is any malicious act behind it.

"Because we know people will talk and come up with all sorts of theories. So I told her it is okay and she had my blessings."

Diamond and Hamisa have a son together and they had so much drama in their 'relationship' before they separated, where Hamisa took Diamond to court for child support.

VOICES

EDITORIAL

Stop border movement to tame coronavirus

About a week ago, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe said that Kenya was concerned about the rise in the number of positive Covid–19 cases in neighbouring countries.

Despite this concern, at least four cases announced this week are of persons who were across the borders recently.

The second case in Kwale county announced on Tuesday was that of a woman who had travelled from Tanzania on April 13. Three of the cases in Nairobi were reported as persons who had visited Somalia recently.

The two countries had fewer cases than Kenya but their numbers have more than doubled in the last 10 days.

As the government continues to restrict movement within the country, it is probably a good time to stop movement through the borders. The government should deploy more security forces along the borders which have in the past proven to be porous.

At the same time, Kenyans are seeing the government continue to enhance operations to curb the virus. However, recent revelations that Kemri is underfunded to the extent of not having enough testing materials is a matter of concern.

The government must do all it can to ensure that the institution is well funded and has the capacity to do its job.

HISTORICAL QUOTE

"The harder the conflict, the greater the triumph."

GEORGE WASHINGTON
He was inaugurated as the first President of the US on April 30, 1789.

THE STAR

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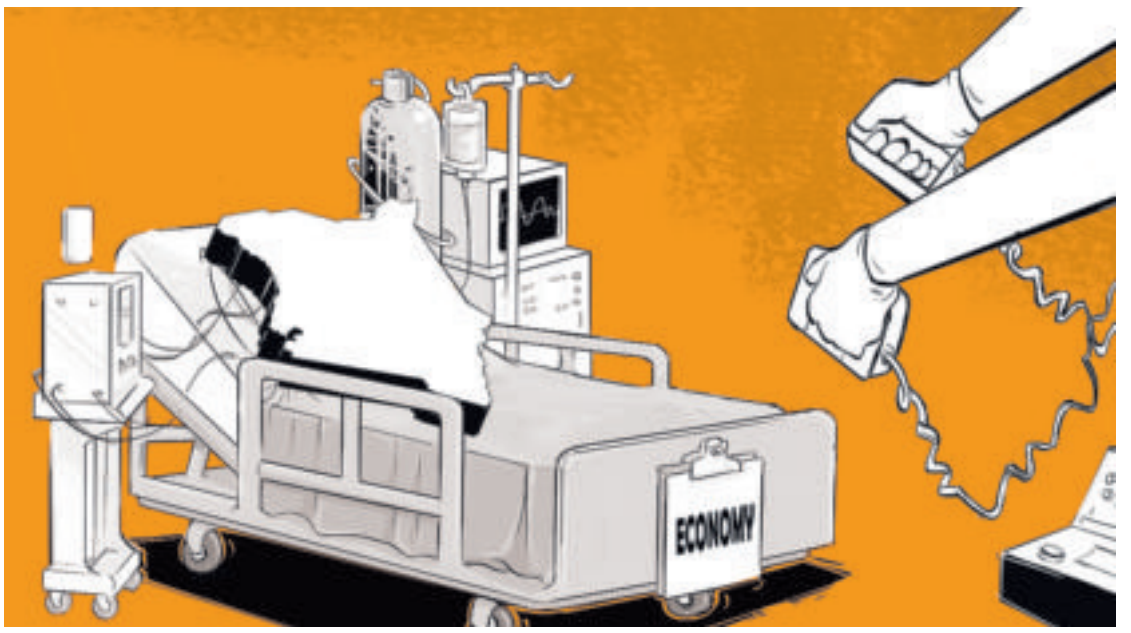
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COMMENT



WYCLIFFE MUGA
@mugawycliffe

It took a rapidly spreading deadly virus to severely damage all the economic sectors that are now "on life support". But it'll require a whole host of things to work out before we can hope to recover



REVIVING ECONOMY WILL BE HARDER

Earlier this week, the Cabinet Secretary for Health announced the terms and conditions for the reopening of restaurants.

This coincided with the measured reopening of public facilities all over the world, and in all these cases it signals the same thing: That a government believes it has somehow managed to contain the coronavirus pandemic infections within its borders.

This is not to say there will be no more new cases. Just that the government is no longer in free fall over this crisis. And that in the time since the first lockdown (full or partial) was proclaimed, the measures taken by the government had somehow stabilised the situation.

Well, we know that the Covid-19 pandemic poses terrifying questions at two levels. First is how can we save as many lives as possible?

This is a question usually answered by virologists and epidemiologists, working mostly through "computational models", which may be loosely defined as the study of "the behaviour of a complex system by computer simulation...a complex nonlinear system for which simple, intuitive analytical solutions are not readily available".

This is stuff way above the head of any layman. So, we have often been obliged to obey the dictates of experts.

If we are told to keep a certain distance apart, that is what we do. If we are told to keep our children at home, then they will certainly remain at home. If face masks are prescribed, we wear face masks. And so on.

But beyond this, there is a second question: "How do we restore economic activity, and subsequently, economic growth? This is not as incomprehensible as "computational models". But it is actually much harder to achieve. Take for example Kenya's horticulture sector, which has gone into sharp decline, owing to the huge drop in demand – as well as the breakdown of the logistical supply chains to Europe – due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Even if the Kenyan flower growers recall their workers a few weeks from now, will there really be economical freight rates being offered by airlines flying to Europe; and a ready fleet of specialised trucks at the European destination, which will take these flowers straight to some climate-controlled warehouse? And all this – starting with the cutting of the flower stem in the greenhouse – must happen within roughly 24 hours.

Finally, will Europeans – some of whom have lost their jobs and have been depending on government subsidies – immediately prioritise the purchase of fresh flowers with their limited cash?

In short, it took just one thing – a rapidly spreading deadly virus – to severely damage all the economic sectors that are now basically "on life support". But it will require a whole host of things to work out before we can hope to recover lost ground.

Adding to this complication is that there will be no clear path to follow in getting over the economic impacts of the pandemic.

Now, although this is not the kind of thing which you can expect the great and the good of the Ministry of Health to announce in plain words, the fact is their policy up to now has been obvious enough and can be summarised in very few words: We blindly follow the prescriptions of the World Health Organization.

WILL EUROPEANS – SOME OF WHOM HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS AND DEPEND ON GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES – IMMEDIATELY PRIORITISE THE PURCHASE OF FRESH FLOWERS WITH THEIR LIMITED CASH?

Nothing wrong with that. It is for just this purpose that the WHO was set up: To offer guidance, support and expertise to all nations, but more so to those nations that lack the resources needed for meeting the major health challenges of the day.

But this pandemic denies us all comfort in the wisdom of the WHO. Over the past few months, we have seen the world's leading experts in the fields of public health and biomedical research running around like headless chickens, changing their prescriptions all the time and arguing with each other over what was the path to safety.

More recently they have even added previously unacknowledged "symptoms" to what may – or may not – be proof of Covid-19 infection. And this is in medicine and public health where we are dealing with laboratory sciences.

What chance is there then, that anybody really knows how we can get the economy back on track, and by what steps and over what period?

@johnnjenga
If Kenya does not close its borders with Tanzania, all that Kenya is doing to contain corona virus covid19 is zero, sufuri and kazi bure. Kenya's second wave will creep in from Tanzania. Tanzanians will test –ve at Kenyan border and +ve before leaving after infecting Kenyans

VOICES

COMMENT



EDWARD GAKUYA
Social commentator

I don't think a lot of people around the world want to hear this voice—the inner voice

THE SOUNDS WE CURRENTLY HEAR

I live in a terraced housing estate and the house next door is unoccupied. The curious thing about this vacant house is nobody has lived there for almost three years but that said, all too often the owners of the property swing by to do major renovations on the place.

I'm talking the kind of repair and rebuilding work that engenders welding, grinding, the banging of walls, and headaches caused by fumy house-paint. It is for this reason I call this house the Lego house – a house nobody lives in that's always being repaired, dismantled and rebuilt. They were at it again all of last week, and even as I write this the infernal racket of construction work continues.

So, assailed as I am by the noise from next door, I decided I might as well write about sound. All over the world, with Covid-19 lockdowns, curfews, and restrictions forcing us to cut back, or stop entirely our everyday activities, sounds we ordinarily don't get to hear are now being heard. The soundscape is subtly changing.

A soundscape is the acoustic environment as perceived by humans. It consists of three main components – Biophony, Geophony and Anthropophony.

Let's break those down, starting with Biophony. This refers to the collective sound produced by animals in a given habitat. This is to say the sounds made by desert snakes, birds, animals and other creatures, are different from that made by forest creatures. Meaning, the Biophony in the desert is not the same as that of a forest.

Geophony relates to naturally occurring sounds made by non-living elements. These include the sound of water in a stream, waves in the ocean, the wind in the trees, rain, storms and even the sound generated by earth itself – glaciers, avalanches and earthquakes.

As for Anthropophony, all sound generated by human endeavours falls in this category, whether it be coherent such as music, theatre and language, or incoherent and chaotic (ie noise), such as sounds of electromechanical origin resulting from the use of industrial technology.

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic however, these sounds of human endeavour, the noise, have been relegated to the background. This has in turn allowed room for Biophony and Geophony – the sounds of nature, to be heard. People can now hear birds in Western capitals due to the absence of traffic, and seismologists are having an easier time of it now that there are fewer humans and their machines moving about.

But there's another sound, I feel, that we are now hearing as we find ourselves less occupied and indoors, sometimes alone or with just our immediate family. It is the sound of our inner voice.

I don't think though a lot of people around the world want to hear this voice. It is for this reason perhaps why many are jeopardising their health by attending parties and locking themselves in bars after curfew and during lockdowns. I think they seek the noise of others, the noises of the world, so as to drown out the sound of that inner voice.

All I can say to them is stay home, stay safe and fear not that inner voice.

Listen to your own voice, your own soul. Too many people listen to the noise of the world, instead of themselves – Leon Brown.

Scan this QR code using your smartphone to see more opinion columns on the Star website.

COMMENT



FELGONAH OYUGA
Sales representative @nyarowiro

Women go through it too. You wake up next to your Prince Charming and his breath makes your eyes tear...I am yet to find a woman who used this as an excuse to 'run away'



LOVE STINKS SOMETIMES, LIVE WITH IT

Someone said they do not ask for marriage advice from African women because it involves suffering. We laughed at the tweet, not because it was funny, but because it is true. If we did not laugh, we might have cried.

'It be your own people' the cliche goes.

Before the tweet had sunk in, another woman decided to share a video of a woman admonishing women whose husbands did not want to stay at home even during this pandemic. Listen, the man, grown and legally sane as far as we know, does not want to stay at home but we find a way to blame a woman for not maybe tying him to her bed or casting a spell that immobilises him.

The video woman said men were not staying at home mainly because women were smelling. Yes, I also had a 'facepalm' moment. Apparently, women who had given birth were walking around with breast milk stains on their clothes. She also added that others who she decided were not showering or shaving their down there were the reason some men would rather battle corona than their funk.

We really need to stop this nonsense. First of all, I am not a medical anything. All my medical knowledge has been gathered from various places except medical school. But I can tell you this, sometimes the smell is not because you do not bathe, sometimes you need medication. Sometimes it is from that man who wants to run away. They contribute to changes in your body and maybe you both need medication. If you are exchanging body fluids and one of you has a smell from the privates, just see a doctor, both of you.

Men, if your wife is finding it hard to take a shower and remove her breast milk stained clothes, it will not kill you to hold your baby and give her time to take a leisurely bath. Giving birth is not as neat and clean as they show in the movies, and babies do not sleep, I do not care who thinks sleeping like a baby is a thing.

It is so ridiculous the excuses we come up with. Can we be adults for a minute? If you have lived with a human being, you know they do not always smell fresh. Whatever fluid comes from a human being's body smells. You are bound to manage it when you see each other once a week when everyone is doused in cologne and perfume. Once you are together in close quarters, night and day, you notice it more. It takes a bit of adjustment. It is not easy on either party, please understand this.

Women go through it too. You wake up next to your Prince Charming and his breath makes your eyes tear. He farts and you think someone has hidden a smelly he-goat under your bed. Sometimes he lifts his arms and the pong can empty a crowded room. The worst is when you try and use the bathroom after him and you wonder how a handsome man can have such smelly insides. I am yet to find a woman who used this as an excuse to 'run away'.

AND SOME FOOL IS CHEATING US THAT HE CANNOT STAY AT HOME BECAUSE HIS WIFE IS BREASTFEEDING (KEEPING HIS SEED ALIVE), ATI HE CANNOT MANAGE THE SMELL OF BREAST MILK. GROW UP

Let us stop bullying women because of normal body functions. You now have young women who cannot dare use the bathroom for a number two, let alone fart when spending a weekend with a male interest. All that waste you are forcing to stay in your body is bound to cause problems.

I am not saying do nothing if someone is smelling like a rabbit, seek medical attention. Both of you. Other things can be managed. Someone does not start hating showers years into the marriage. They always did and you liked them like that. (Huyo ni chaguo lako [S/he is your choice!)

Reminds me of a workmate years ago. This guy's breath would literally make you bloated. People nicknamed him Hal (for halitosis). We always wondered if he would ever get a girlfriend, poor Hal. Well, he did. A very pretty one (with lungs of steel I suspect) and I hear they got married. And some fool is cheating us that he cannot stay at home because his wife is breastfeeding (keeping his seed alive), ati he cannot manage the smell of breast milk. Grow up!

fellyoyuga@gmail.com

★ SOCIETY

SOCIETY@THE-STAR.CO.KE

KPC TARGETS ASAL COUNTIES IN COVID WAR

Kenya Pipeline Company last week dispatched more than 20,000 litres of free hand sanitiser to several counties in northern Kenya to counter the spread of the coronavirus.

Kwal, Diversey EA and KPC are spearheading the national government's efforts to take the war on coronavirus to the grassroots.

Speaking to journalists after receiving more than 40,000 litres of sanitisers from Diversey EA, KPC managing director **Macharia Irungu** thanked Kwal and KRA "for ensuring we have sufficient amounts of ethanol to produce these sanitisers".

In attendance was KRA chief manager inland container **Rosemary Mureithi**. The function took place at Polysynthetic Eastern Africa Ltd offices, Nairobi.











1. Kwal chairman Kuria Muchiri and Diversey EA vice president Boniface Kariuki 2. KPC official Grace Njoroge and Polysynthentics MD John Njuguna 3. Muchiri, Kariuki, KRA chief manager inland container Rosemary Mureithi and KPC managing director Macharia Irungu 4. KPC logistics officer Paul Ooro and Job Apukoa 5. Mureithi and Irungu 6. Diversey EA supply chain director Joseph Githinji and Polysynthetics plant engineer Michael Maina 7. Kwal plant manager Joash Odera and supply chain director Mwenda Kageenu /**DOUGLAS OKIDDY**

(+) PEPSI DONATES MASKS, SANITISERS AND FOOD

Pepsi, a beverage manufacturing company based in Baba Dogo, Nairobi, on Tuesday donated face masks, hand sanitiser and food to residents.

This was in support of the government's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

They also aimed to educate the residents on taking safety precautions. The event was presided over by comedian **Otoyo** and the staff of Pepsi.













1. Pepsi staff display face masks they were donating 2. Officers Fredrick Tuta, Hillary Odhiambo and Benjamin Munyao 3. A man washes his hands at a waterpoint donated by Pepsi 4. Baba Dogo resident Justus Ooko receives a free mask from Pepsi human resource manager Serah Wangethi 5. Comedian Otoyo sanitises a matatu driver 6. A motorcyclist receives a free face mask from Pepsi staff after sanitising /**EZEKIEL AMING'A**

COUNTIES

COMMENT

Will City Hall experiment bear fruit in 100 days? Time will tell

A third force is alleged to be driving the transfer of functions after NMS and City Hall differ

STAR REPORTER
@TheStarKenya



Devolution CS Eugene Wamalwa and Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko during the signing of an agreement that hands over county functions to the national government at State House in February **/PSCU**

Two months have passed since Nairobi County Government transferred four functions to the National Government, and it appears the targets set to be achieved in 100 days will remain elusive.

The body that was formed to run the transferred functions, Nairobi Metropolitan Service, has decided to go it alone and refused to meet Governor Mike Sonko or his County Executive Committee members for a briefing on the status of programmes and projects in the sectors.

Instead, NMS has chosen to work with county officers from director level and below. Consequently, some of its decisions have ended up being inconsistent with the law.

But what has been more of concern to City Hall is how the National Government continues to attempt to expand the mandate of NMS beyond the four transferred functions.

On Tuesday, the National Treasury wrote to the county secretary seeking information on two additional functions of Finance and Economic Planning, as well as Devolution and Public Service Management.

This follows a recent unilateral transfer of 760 inspectorate staff to NMS, and the transfer of county revenue staff to Kenya Revenue Authority in what HR experts say was irregular. The staff, the experts say, should instead have been seconded by the county government following a request by the Public Service Commission.

The inspectorate staff have been given new reporting lines. Seventeen senior police officers of the rank of Inspector and above have been posted to Nairobi's 17 sub-counties to take over from the county government's sub-county commanders.

The move to transfer the inspectorate staff, who were under the Office of the Governor, is what led to Sonko writing a protest letter on his social media platform. Some of those transferred were security officers in his detail.

On the same Tuesday, the Public Service Commission and the NMS advertised for 1,000 inspectorate staff, after cancelling a similar advert that had been placed in the local dailies by the county government.

But perhaps the big slap on the face of the governor was a decision, the same day, by the Government Printer to gazette a supplementary budget that had been forwarded by Speaker Beatrice Elachi, and which had been rejected by Sonko.

The governor's main bone of contention was the report of the Finance Budget and Appropriations Committee of the County Assembly, and which accompanied the supplementary budget, that effectively transferred the budgets for the sectors of Finance, ICT and Inspectorate to NMS, yet these were not among the transferred functions.

The assembly justified this by listing the sectors as ancillary services, necessary to facilitate the work of the four transferred functions.

All these events have been coordinated between the Ministry of Interior, NMS, the PSC, the Police Service, the National Treasury and KRA in a manner to suggest that, short of withdrawing from the deed of transfer, Sonko's protests will fall on deaf ears.

One victory for the governor, though, was a decision by both the Senate and the National Assembly to reject a proposal by the Nairobi County Assembly to allow NMS to directly take the Sh15.9 billion Nairobi receives from the National Treasury as its equitable share.

This is money that is allocated to every county by the Commission on Revenue Allocation and approved by the Senate. The aim was to have NMS take the money directly from Treasury, without it passing through the County Revenue Fund account at the Central Bank, as required by law.

If this had succeeded, City Hall would have been forced to rely on its own-source revenue, i.e. money it collects itself, to meet the cost of salaries and fund the other functions that were not transferred.

Former Nairobi County Secretary Peter Kariuki has been acting as the CEO of NMS, despite having been charged in court together with Sonko over contracts allegedly awarded irregularly to garbage contractors. Due to the complication his prosecution presents, he has not been formally appointed but is in charge.

Kariuki had fallen out with Sonko over fears that he was at City Hall to do the bidding of the national government. Sonko suspended him until when his one-year contract lapsed.

The team at NMS has regarded the CECs and chief officers to be loyal to Sonko, and declined to meet them. This is despite President Uhuru Kenyatta saying during the hand-over at State House that NMS should, together with the county executives, come up with a roadmap on the transferred functions. A meeting was set for Monday this week and would have been the first but NMS called it off abruptly.



County workers queue in Uhuru Park to collect letters of redeployment by the Nairobi Metropolitan Services on April 6 **/ENOS TECHE**

One county official said: "NMS should undertake programmes and projects that had already started. But it appears it wants to detach itself. It is like we are starting afresh and there is no continuity. Where is the linkage between these new people and those who were doing the job before?

CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

"What has emerged is that there is a third force driving the transfer of functions, not the Nairobi County Government, and not NMS. At the onset, the county government through the county secretary and the County Public Service Board, and the PSC agreed on a structure or organogram.

Shortly thereafter, the Head of Public Service, Joseph Kinyua, published a list of officers that had been seconded to NMS yet that was not what had been agreed. That process turned out to be wrong, and some of the names or titles had to be withdrawn.

Some of the positions contained in Kinyua's letter were created outside the purview of NMS. For example, Kinyua appointed chief officers, but this position is enshrined in the County Government Act which prescribes the process of appointment. The position of chief officer does not exist in national government structures.

The complication for this third force is Article 187 of the Constitution that envisages a situation where institutions assigned functions under Schedule 4 retain constitutional responsibility for the performance of those functions.

Section 26 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act, which President Kenyatta alluded to during the handover of functions, pronounces the establishment of joint committees.

NMS has refused to effect this and has instead set up what appears to be a parallel government to the county government.

This means that CECs and chief officers will still be answerable to the county assembly for oversight. And these positions will continue to exist because they are constitutionally created.

★

'IT IS LIKE WE ARE STARTING AFRESH AND THERE IS NO CONTINUITY'

COUNTIES CENTRAL

35-BED CAPACITY

Wa Iria beats the odds as Murang'a completes ICU building in 19 days

Governor says machines already sourced and should be fitted before end of 30 days



ALICE WAITHERA
@alicewangechi



Murang'a Governor Mwangi wa Iria witnesses the laying of the foundation stone for the construction of a 35–bed ICU unit at Murang'a Level 5 Hospital on April 11 /COURTESY

On Saturday, April 11, workers laid the foundation stone for the construction of the biggest ICU hospital in Murang'a county.

Governor Mwangi wa Iria then announced the construction works be completed in a record 21 days as the county ramped up preparations for the novel coronavirus.

That news was received with pessimism by most residents who dismissed the governor's claims as cheap political talk.

Both residents and non-residents took to social media urging Wa Iria to slow down the pace of construction, warning that if hastened, the building may not achieve the desired quality.

They said construction guidelines have to be followed for a strong structure. But the governor dismissed the naysayers, insisting the facility would be operational in a month's time.

Nineteen days later, the 35-bed ICU unit at the Murang'a Level 5 Hospital is complete with only fitting and equipping of the wards to be done.

Construction works continued day and night, with workers disregarding the dusk-to-dawn curfew to ensure things moved according to plan. Only heavy rains occasionally forced the workers out of the site.

Wa Iria said the facility was urgently needed to serve Covid-19 patients who may require intensive care across the larger Mt Kenya region.

He said the construction works are expected to be complete by Friday so the county government can start equipping the facility.

The county government was already sourcing ICU machines even as construction went on. "We have already sourced 10 ICU machines and we are in the process of getting the rest," Wa Iria said.

While the facility is being put up to deal with coronavirus-related cases, Wa Iria said patients suffering from other conditions will also be treated.

Murang'a has not recorded any confirmed case of Covid-19, but Wa Iria said it was safer to be prepared for any eventuality.

"We know that some of the Covid-19 patients with more severe symptoms require the support of the machines," he said.

TRAIN HEALTH WORKERS

Murang'a's only six ICU machines are at the Kiria-ini Mission Hospital in Mathioya constituency.

The county government has already advertised positions for specialised health workers to be deployed to the ICU hospital including a radiologist, 10 nurses and two pharmacists.

Wa Iria yesterday told the Star that by the time 30 days are over, every single detail pertaining to the ICU unit will have been tended to.

He said the county will sponsor 20 nurses to undertake higher diploma training in Critical Care Nursing at the Kenya Medical Training College in Murang'a.

He said the nurses will ensure the unit is able to handle an influx of patients as they continue offering services in the general wards.

The college has introduced the course following the establishment of the ICU facility and the nurses will be among its first batch of students.

College principal Evelyne Nyamai said the course requires intensive practical learning and could not have been introduced without an ICU unit for support training.

The county has written to the Aga Khan Hospital asking for a partnership that will ensure the ICU facility takes off as required while maintaining high standards.

"The Aga Khan University Hospital already has one of the best-run ICU units in the country and with their assistance, we will also be able to raise the standards of the new unit and get it running efficiently," Wa Iria said.

The county previously had a memorandum of understanding with the Aga Khan University that enabled sponsored students to train in local health facilities.

A similar MOU was undertaken with Murang'a University of Technology to help the institution start a faculty of health sciences.

"These partnerships will enhance the delivery of health services in the county as the students will be distributed across the region."

Sources at the county government told the Star that the ICU unit may not have all the 35-beds by the end of 30 days but it will have enough machines to start operations.

The building has been completed and workers are in the process of paving its surrounding. More than 200 workers have been undertaking the works.

The governor said the county had outdone itself by completing construction works two days ahead of the set deadline.

Infrastructure executive Amos Njoroge said they have been using special materials that support fast construction. He said in a normal building, plastering should take about seven days to dry up but the materials used in plastering the ICU building were able to dry up in two days.

The materials also make the structure of the building stronger, he said. The executive sought to allay residents' fears that the structure could collapse in the future because it was hastily put up.

Murang'a has been partnering with local institutions to prevent the spread of Covid-19.



The 35–bed ICU unit at Murang'a Level 5 Hospital yesterday /ALICE WAITHERA

'WE HAVE ALREADY SOURCED 10 ICU MACHINES AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE REST'

MANHUNT ON

Two escape from quarantine in Nyeri

EUTYCUS MUCHIRI/ Two people who had been quarantined at Wambugu ATC in Nyeri town have escaped.

Nyeri Central deputy county commissioner Joseph Mwangi said Johnson Kimani Muniu and Wilson Nderitu Gitonga escaped at midnight. He said the two took advantage of a downpour.

Later, when security officers guarding the facility went on patrol after the rain subsided, they discovered that the grills of a washroom window had been cut using a hacksaw.

"They got inside and realised that two people had escaped from the facility through the window," he said.

They informed their seniors who sent the deputy subcounty commander. The two escapees had been arrested at Naromoru and were committed by a Nanyuki court to the quarantine.

One of them owns a bar in Naromoru, Mwangi said.

He said the police have launched a manhunt for the two so they can be rearrested before the end of the week and returned to the facility.

"They will later be charged with breaking out of a lawful quarantine facility," he said.

PUT UP 82 YEARS AGO

Colonial–era police station in Mweiga to be built afresh

EUTYCUS MUCHIRI/ The dilapidated Mweiga police station, which was built 82 years ago, will be built afresh, Kieni MP Kanini Kega has said.

The station was built by the colonial government in 1938. It will be rebuilt for Sh3 million and is expected to be completed in two months.

Kieni NG–CDF chairman Maina Munene told the Star on Wednesday the money has been allocated.

"To improve service delivery to my people, I have, through the NG–CDF, embarked on improving the police station," Kega said while laying a foundation stone at the station.

"Today, accompanied by the deputy county commissioner and subcounty police commander Kieni West, we laid the foundation stone for Mweiga police station."

Kanini said the station was giving Mweiga town a bad image as it has gaping holes.

All eight wards in the constituency will each have a police station to boost security, he said.



The 82–year–old colonial era Mweiga police station in Kieni / EUTYCAS MUCHIRI

COUNTIES COAST

HOTBED OF PANDEMIC

Port will not be shut down over Covid outbreak, says MD Salim

KPA says they have revamped efforts to stop spread of virus in the hard-hit institution



MAUREEN MUDI
@TheStarKenya

The port of Mombasa will not be shut down because of confirmation of Covid-19 cases, the management has said.

Acting Kenya Ports Authority managing director Rashid Salim told the Star the agency had revamped its efforts to curb the virus.

"For the last three or four days, we have not recorded any new case. We are operating at the bare minimum to ensure less interaction of people while at the same time providing more mitigating measures," Salim said.

KPA has recorded 27 cases as per official health records, placing the port as a hotbed of the virus. Two of its employees succumbed to the disease, making it the public institution with the highest number of Covid-19 cases so far.

Dozens of KPA workers are still in quarantine, with some sections reconstituting the workforce to ensure workflows.

The container and conventional cargo areas are the most affected with many workers in quarantine.

"Curfew has not affected our operations. We have had to readjust," the MD added.

It is now feared that Covid-19 response teams may have not considered KPA as a high-risk area when the virus first hit Mombasa.

It was only when confirmed cases from the port were announced that measures started being taken.

Out of the seven cases reported in Mombasa by the ministry on Monday, five came from KPA. The following day, out of the six cases, KPA had another five. That put Mombasa county's infection rate higher than the national rate.

In less than a week, the county reported 20 cases. Mombasa county by Tuesday reported 98 cases.

County executive in charge of health Hazel Koitaba said the county had sensitised residents who must now take individual initiative to stay safe.

Governor Hassan Joho, who has been advocating for a total shutdown, has put in place measures to curb the spread.

KPA has more than 7,000 workers who are documented but the facility serves outsiders who frequently visit the port.

They include cleaners, contractors, crew from foreign ships, suppliers, clearing agents, brokers, clerks from logistics companies and drivers.

Recently, five truck drivers in Uganda tested positive having come from the port of Mombasa.

The Ugandan government issued stringent measures on cargo transportation across borders, a move that seems to have irked Kenya Transport Association.

In a petition dated April 25, KTA chief operating officer Mercy Ireri said resolutions by Ugandan Minister for Internal Affairs Jeje Odong and the Trade and Transport National Task Force over cargo movement would paralyse business.

Uganda has enforced lockdown but allowed movement of trucks and requires that other drivers across regional borders be deployed.

"The security and safety of cargo will be compromised by multiple drivers involved in a single haulage. Relay driving changeover by drivers would create inefficiencies, misuse, damage and theft of oil," Ireri said.



Port of Mombasa / FREDRICK OMONDI

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Forced test on asymptomatic carriers wrong, state warned

NGO says citizens shouldn't pay for quarantine



Muhuri rapid response officer Francis Auma with director Hassan Abdille hold a copy of their petition requiring the state to pay quarantine costs /JOHN CHESOLI

MAUREEN MUDI/ Muhuri has challenged the state's practice of forcing asymptomatic carriers of Covid-19 to provide specimens for testing without their consent and to be quarantined.

The issue will play out in court on Wednesday in a case filed by Muslims for Human Rights.

It also seeks to compel the government to pay quarantine charges. The lobby group says the government received funding from the WHO and should spend it to save Kenyans cost of quarantine.

On Monday, High Court judge Mugure Thande certified the case urgent and set the hearing for Wednesday.

"This raises plausible legal questions of infringement on constitutional rights and freedoms, including the right to property, right to freedom and security of the person, right to protection of human dignity and right to privacy," Muhuri chairperson Khelef Khalifa said in an affidavit.

The lobby seeks a declaration that those forcibly quarantined without sufficient and reasonable cause or prior testing should be released because their rights are being violated.

Muhuri lawyer Lumatete Muchai said it is public knowledge those confined in government-designated isolation centres are subjected to deplorable conditions.

"The restrooms are flooded with water, the food is kept overnight and is rotten and there is no proper planning on the separation of the infected and non-infected," he said.

Muhuri has sued the Attorney General, the Health Cabinet Secretary and the Police IG.

It wants the government to pay quarantine costs, about Sh2,000 per day plus other expenses.

Muhuri said the government is responsible for ensuring quarantine is carried out while upholding the human dignity of the people confined.

"The circumstances are not peculiar to Mombasa county alone. All over Kenya, similar cases have been reported of people being forced into quarantine as punishment for undisclosed offences," Khalifa said.

Muhuri said people quarantined at such facilities are at great risk of contracting Covid-19 due to lack of proper sanitation and failure to implement all safety guidelines including separation of the infected and uninfected.

"This will negate the very purpose and reason of isolation and quarantine," Lumatete said.

GROWING STIGMA

Mombasa man who died at home wasn't coronavirus positive

BRIAN OTIENO/ A man who died mysteriously in his house in Magongo, Mombasa county, on Wednesday last week did not have Covid-19.

The death and subsequent actions by police and public health officers caused panic among family, friends and neighbours who suspected it might have been a case of the coronavirus.

However, samples taken from the body by public health officers on Friday tested negative for the virus. This came as a relief for family members who said there was already suspicion among relatives and neighbours.

"I called to inform you that we have the results from the doctor. It is negative," Vincent Wambulwa, the deceased's uncle, told the Star on Monday. He said the anxiety among neighbours, church members and some of the relatives over the suspicion exposed them to stigma.

NO MEDICAL SERVICES

Bonis want health facilities vandalised by Shabaab opened

CHETI PRAXIDES/ The Boni minority community has appealed to the national government to reopen health centres and dispensaries closed after al Shabaab attacks many years ago.

The facilities in the terror-prone areas were looted and torched by al Shabaab militants between 2014 and 2017, forcing medical staff to flee for safety.

Today, many of the dispensaries still stand desolate with no one to run them.

The Boni, one of Kenya's last forest communities, occupy the terror-prone areas of Milimani, Basuba, Mangai, Mararani, Madina and Kiangwe in Lamu East. They are also found in Bargoni and Pandanguo in Lamu West.

NEW COVID-19 CASE

Close Lunga Lunga border, Governor Mvurya tells state

SHABAN OMAR/ Kwale Governor Salim Mvurya has urged the national government to close the Kenya-Tanzania border at Lunga Lunga to contain the spread of Covid-19.

The governor made the call after the county registered a second case of the virus — a Kenyan woman who travelled from Dar-es-Salaam on April 23. Mvurya said it will be impossible to control the spread of the disease if activities at the border went on as usual. "The second patient came from our neighbouring country although she is our resident. It tells us a lot that things are not good on the other side too, hence, the need to consider closing the border if we are to properly contain the virus," he said.

COUNTIES EASTERN

TRAGEDY

Man drowns in Makueni after boat he used to ferry residents is swept away by flooded river

MUTUA KAMETI/Residents of Kitise in Makueni county were yesterday searching for the body of a man who drowned after the rubber dinghy he was using to ferry people across River Athi overturned.

Chief Patrick Kisambo said the deceased was alone when he died.

"He was on his way back to the other side of the river, after ferrying people to Monguni village in Kitui county, when the rubber boat overturned in the flooded river. He tried to swim but he was swept away," he said.

Family members and villagers from Matheani in Kitise, Kathonzweni subcounty, have searched for his body with no success.

"We are yet to recover the body but we may be forced to involve experienced people to help us," said a relative.

Residents from both sides of Makueni and Kitui counties use the hand–peddled rubber boats, popularly known as Ndombolo, to cross the river inhabited by hippos and crocodiles.

The first rubber dinghy was operated by Captain Musyoki Masivo, alias Kativui, who ferried passengers at a cost of Sh50. "I used to operate a dinghy to transport charcoal and livestock across the river during market days at Kitise in Makueni and Monguni in Kitui county," Musyoki said.



Police remove the body of Samuel Mwamba, 65, a mechanic who was found in his rental house in Mwingi shot with an arrow in his chest on April 21 **/LINAH MUSANGI**

DIAGNOSED ON FRIDAY

Bishop who raised Kinoti dies of Covid–19 in Italy

Njiru, 91, has been living in Turin since retiring from Meru Diocese in 2004



GORDON OSEN
@TheStarKenya

Former Meru Diocese Bishop Silas Silvius Njiru, who raised DCI George Kinoti and his six siblings, has died of Covid-19 at the age of 91.

The bishop, who retired in 2004, died on Tuesday at Rivoli Hospital in the Italian metropolitan city of Turin. He was diagnosed with the virus last Friday.

His death was announced by the secretary general of the Consolata Missionaries, Fr Pedro Jose da Silva Luoro. The prelate resided at the Blessed Joseph Allamano house in Alpignano, Turin, Italy.

Luoro eulogised Njiru as a clergyman of integrity, who dedicated his service to the well-being of the people of God.

Kinoti said in an exclusive interview in December 2018 that his mother was a staunch Catholic and that after their father abandoned them, he suffered from malnutrition and a bone ailment.

The bishop put him in a children's home. "I lived in a children's home during holidays, had poor health but The Sisters of Nazareth took good care of me," the DCI said.

Njiru's generosity and kindness inspired Kinoti to think of becoming a priest. "I felt that there was nothing I could give back other than studying priesthood," he said.

However, the bishop discouraged Kinoti from quitting his university studies for priestly studies. He advised Kinoti to instead undertake paramilitary training at NYS. This ended his hope for the priesthood and started his journey to the police profession.

It was Bishop Njiru who wrote to the then Commissioner of Police Philip Kilonzo introducing Kinoti. The influence of the bishop in his life made him religious to the extent that he never took off his rosary. Pope John Paul II blessed the rosary more than 30 years ago. He also prays several times a day.



Retired Catholic Bishop of Meru Silas Silvius Njiru who died on April 25, at Rivoli Hospital in Italy/ **COURTESY**

Njiru was born at Kevote in Embu in 1928. His elder brother was the late Bishop Emilio Njiru, the first Catholic African bishop of Eldoret.

Njiru was ordained a priest in December 1955 and appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Meru in October 1975 before becoming a bishop in January 1976.

He was appointed Bishop of Meru Diocese in December 1976, a position he held for 28 years until he retired in 2004. He was succeeded by Bishop Salesius Mugambi, the current bishop of the diocese.

Njiru is the second African Prelate to die of coronavirus-related complications after Bishop Gérard Mulumba Kalemba of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who died on April 15 aged 82.

NJIRU'S GENEROSITY, KINDNESS INSPIRED KINOTI TO THINK OF BECOMING A PRIEST

NINE DEATHS IN APRIL

Violence rises in Mwingi as four are killed in mob justice

LINAH MUSANGI/ Four people in Mwingi succumbed to mob justice out of the nine deaths recorded in April by the police.

On April 4, a man named Justus Makau was killed by a mob for allegedly stealing goats. The suspect was pronounced dead at Migwani Level 4 Hospital.

A week later, another suspect who attempted to steal a woman's personal effects was beaten to death by a mob at Neema in Mwingi town.

When the police and DCI visited the scene, they found a knife. The victim had head injuries.

On the same day, a man identified as Justus Kavindu was walking with his daughter towards Garissa bus stop when he suddenly collapsed and died after complaining of severe chest pain.

Two days later, a woman called Margaret Mutinda found a body along the Mangoloma River and informed the police.

The deceased, identified as Francis Mutisya Kitondu, had head injuries suspected to have been caused by a blunt object, cut marks on the right foot; two right-hand fingers had been chopped off and placed 100 metres from the body.

The motive behind the killing of the 42-year-old man remains unknown.

Five days later, Mwambui assistant chief Munyoki Mutemi reported to Mwingi police station that a 70-year-old man, identified as Francis Kyang'as Muthangya, had committed suicide by hanging himself with a rope in his brother's house.

That same day, a man was beaten to death by a mob at Katuluni, five kilometres from Mwingi town, after he tried to break into a shop belonging to Shadrack Mutunga.

Neighbours rushed to the scene after Mutunga raised the alarm and beat the suspect to death.

On April 21, a mechanic identified as Moses Mwamba was found dead in his house at Mwingi town.

He was shot in the right side of his chest with an arrow from a close distance. The circumstances surrounding his death are unknown.

According to the police report, the 65-year-old had apparently pulled out the arrow before his death. It was recovered from the scene.

On April 24, an elderly woman drowned in River Thunguthu, Ngomeni, on her way from receiving cash for the elderly in Mwingi town. She was in a Toyota Probox together with three other occupants when the river swept away the car.

Her body was retrieved a day later and was moved to Kyuso Level 4 Hospital mortuary. The other occupants are in hospital.

On April 29, a thief tried to break into a shop near Mwingi Catholic Church but was accosted by a mob. Residents woke up after the watchman raised the alarm and beat the suspect to death. His three accomplices escaped.

Mwingi central subcounty police commander Peter Mutuma said the cases have increased because courts are only handling capital offences.

COUNTIES NORTHEASTERN

BLAME KENGEN

MCAs want CS Keter grilled over Garissa flooding

Ward reps to formally petition the Senate to interrogate Energy Cabinet Secretary



STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@TheStarKenya

Garissa MCAs are planning to petition the Senate to interrogate Energy CS Charles Keter over frequent flooding in the county and in neighbouring Tana River.

The ward representatives say recurring flooding is caused by Kenya Electricity Generating Company that often releases water from their dams.

Flooding in Garissa and Tana River is often caused by heavy rains in the uplands and River Tana bursting its banks.

Excess water from Masinga Dam also causes flooding downstream when released.

The MCAs said River Tana has burst its banks for the third time in 24 months partly because of the rains but mainly because of the disposal of excessive waters from the dams into the river.

Kengen has been blamed for releasing the waters.

The floods have led to the loss of lives, displacement of families, and destruction of property.

The Red Cross says there are about 8,000 families currently affected by flooding in Garissa in Mororo and Madogo both in Tana River county.



Residents cross the Garissa-Hola road at Dukanotu area which was flooded on Monday /ALPHONCE GARI

Garissa MCAs from the affected areas said they want the Senate to summon Keter to answer to the accusations against Kengen.

Daud Adhen (Danyere), Hassan Omar (Nanighi) and Abdirizack Ismail (Galbet) said they will formally write to the Senate.

"As an assembly, we will petition the Senate because we cannot directly engage the CS. We will petition the Senate to grill him on our behalf and ask him the hard questions on why our people keep on suffering year in year out on mistakes that are not of their own making," Ismail said.

Galbet is the worst affected ward with more than 5,000 families displaced. Ismail said they were tired of singing the same song to the government.

'it is now time for a permanent solution."

Adhen said the government should assess the damages caused with a view to compensating victims.

"Every time it rains and KenGen releases waters it has become a routine where they tell our people to move to higher ground. The state knows that residents have farms along the river where they plant fruits and vegetables. The question is how do you move your farm to higher grounds? What happens to your investment?

Danyere farmer Mohamed Abdi said that he was already counting loses after his 10-acre banana plantation was submerged in floodwaters.

"I also have a five-acre piece of land where I have planted watermelons which were almost ready for harvest but is now destroyed," he said.



COMBATING CORONAVIRUS

Street families vulnerable to Covid-19, cushion them too, MP Wario tells state

STEPHEN ASTARIKO/ Bura MP Ali Wario has asked the government to provide for street families as part of measures to cushion wananchi from the effects of coronavirus.

Wario on Wednesday said street families are vulnerable to Covid-19 and asked the state through the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to assist them.

The MP, who chairs the National Assembly's Committee on Labour and Social Welfare, said the ministry was allocated Sh10 billion in the last budget "but nothing so far has been set aside for street families."

"I am so disturbed that there are no programmes and other intervention measures for street families. They have no roof over their heads and at this time of the coronavirus pandemic, they also need to be protected like the rest of Kenyans," Wario said.

He spoke in Madogo town.

"I have seen nothing so far towards this end. The ministry should move with speed to ensure this vulnerable group receives the necessary assistance." The lawmaker said the committee will continue to put pressure on the ministry until such a time the MPs are satisfied with the intervention measures to protect the street families.

The MP also appealed to the government and other well-wishers to provide relief food to hundreds of families displaced by floods in Tana River and Garissa counties.

He said the families had heeded government advice to move to higher grounds and should be supported.

"Some families are camping by the roadside and have not received any food assistance so far. There are no toilets, running water and other basic hygiene services in these camps. With the threat of coronavirus, these victims are at risk of contracting this deadly disease," Wario said.

Bura MP Ali Wario in Madogo town yesterday /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TANA RIVER

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

PO BOX 29-70101 HOLA **Email:trcg@gmail.com**

TENDER NOTICE

The county government of Tana River hereby invites interested and eligible firms for the tender specified below.

S/NO	TENDER NO	DESCRIPTION	NEGOTIATION NO	OPENING DATE
1.	TRCG/OT/EDU/02/2019 - 2020	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FRESHLY PACKED AND BRANDED MILK	799867	13th May,2020

Interested bidders can view and download the tender document in the County Government of Tana River website ***(https://www.tanariver.go.ke)*** and or the IFMIS tender portal: ***www.supplier.treasury.go.ke*** using the unique IFMIS Negotiation number given above.

N/B: Hard copies will not be accepted.

Bidders MUST submit their application through IFMIS Portal by 13th MAY, 2020. Tender will be opened on, 13TH MAY, 2020 at 10:00 am at Tana River County Government procurement office in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. Late tender will be returned unopened. Interested bidders should attach the following:

- Must have certificate of incorporation
- Must attach a copy of Pin and VAT certificate
- Must attach copy of tax compliance certificate
- Must attach valid business permit from Tana River
- Must attach copy of public health certificate for the premise

Disadvantaged groups are encouraged to apply.

DIRECTOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TANA RIVER.

COUNTIES WESTERN

HAVE TO BE TESTED

Long–distance truck drivers threat to Busia in Covid–19 war

Among those who have tested positive for the coronavirus in Uganda are truck drivers



Trucks queue as drivers are screened for Covid–19 at the Malaba border yesterday /EMOJONG OSERE



Driver Charles Kinyanjui's temperature is checked at the border /EMOJONG OSERE

EMOJONG OSERE
@TheStarKenya

Busia government and residents are worried that two border towns may become the next coronavirus hotspots.

There are long queues of trucks at the border in Malaba and Busia towns after the government ordered mass testing of their drivers and crews.

This was after it emerged that Kenya could be exporting the virus to its neighbours.

Among people who have tested positive for the virus in Uganda are truck drivers who left the Malaba and Busia border points.

The truck drivers transport goods to Uganda, Rwanda, DR Congo and South Sudan. The drivers and their crews now have to be tested for the virus before they are cleared to proceed with their journey.

By Tuesday, the queue formed by the trucks stretched more than 30 kilometres along the Malaba-Bungoma highway and more than 15 kilometres along the Busia-Kisumu highway.

The crews are forced to spend the nights in hotels or in their trucks as it takes three days to get the results.

This means increased interaction with sex workers.

The two towns have a high HIV-Aids prevalence.

Residents, concerned for their health, are now keenly observing the measures outlined by the government to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Busia has not reported any active case.

Residents are streaming to the Malaba border port health screening centre and the One-Stop Border Post in Busia for voluntary screening.

Malaba Port health manager Evelyn Walela said officials thoroughly screen every truck crew before allowing them to cross the border.

"Those coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Rwanda, which have reported cases, are not allowed to enter Kenya," Walela said.

"Their trucks are fumigated and then they are handed to the drivers from their respective companies on the Kenyan side to drive them to Mombasa."

Governor Sospeter Ojaamong last Saturday asked the national government to devise other means of transporting cargo as the presence of long-distance truck drivers poses a great threat to residents.

"It could consider rerouting all transit cargo to the old railway line for containers from the Port of Mombasa to Uganda and Great Lakes region and all fuel to be transported through the Port of Kisumu, and the railway line to Uganda and Tanzania respectively," he said.

"Uganda has reported a few cases where Kenyan truck drivers have tested positive after passing through Busia and Malaba, thus heightening fears of the pandemic striking the county if no urgent measures are taken to find a lasting solution to the traffic pile-up."

COLONIAL ESTABLISHMENT

Uproar as patients share beds at Bungoma county hospital



Patients at the Bungoma Referral Hospital /JOHN NALIANYA

JOHN NALIANYA/ Residents of Bungoma county have raised the alarm over the dilapidated state of the Bungoma Referral Hospital.

The facility, which was built in 1952, has been in the spotlight over congestion, with patients sharing beds as others sleep on the floor.

The situation has left many wondering if the fifth most populous county is adequately prepared to fight Covid-19.

The facility was elevated to a referral hospital in 2014 by then-Governor Ken Lusaka, now the Senate speaker. It also serves residents of Busia and Kakamega counties.

Pictures of patients sharing beds as others sleep on the floor in the wards have been circulating on social media platforms.

The images have raised fears of unpreparedness to handle the coronavirus.

Denis Wafula from Bumula was admitted to the facility and has been there for three days. He was diagnosed with malaria.

"Yesterday, I was also forced to share a bed with someone who was having a running stomach," Wafula said.

He said the ward is meant for 20 patients but sometimes hosts up to 40.

Danson Wabwile from Kanduyi who had visited a sick relative said the situation is saddening. He called upon Governor Wycliffe Wangamati to move with speed and resolve the situation.

Medical Superintendent David Wanikina said the hospital has only 240 beds but admits about 400 patients.

The medics are overwhelmed by the huge number of patients who only prefer to seek treatment at the facility, Dr Wanikina said.

"The facility lies on the Northern Corridor. We get many accident victims," he said.

"We also witness about 60 to 70 births a month, something that makes the facility very busy."

He asked well-wishers to help renovate and expand the facility to accommodate the high number of patients.

Chief health officer Patrick Wandili said the hospital has been facing challenges that the county should address. "We get close to 1,000 patients a month with about 60 daily."

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Kakamega to help pregnant women during curfew

HILTON OTENYO/ The Kakamega government has come up with a plan to help pregnant women who go into labour or develop complications during curfew hours.

The administration has collected the details of all the pregnant women and mapped out the county.

The families of women who go into labour or develop complications during the curfew are supposed to call area assistant chiefs who will, in turn, inform the OCPD. The OCPD will then alert officers on the route to be used by the woman to facilitate their movement to and from hospital.

Pregnant women have been hard hit by the coronavirus crisis. Most are afraid of attending antenatal clinics for fear of contracting the virus.

Those who go into labour or develop complications during curfew hours are scared of going to hospital for fear the police will brutalise them.

ICT STILL A LUXURY

Varsity students dismiss calls for e–learning

EMOJONG OSERE/ Calls by stakeholders in the education sector for e–learning during the Covid–19 period may not benefit many learners.

A university students' association said on Wednesday that limited access to ICT facilities may not bear the anticipated results for many students, particularly those in rural areas.

Government and Education industry players have been encouraging learners to undertake studies online after schools were closed following the outbreak of the virus.

But Teso North University and College Students Association (Tenucsa) president Edgar Okisai said the learning model may only benefit students from well–off families. Those families, unlike the majority, he said, have the ability to provide computers and other e–learning material.

WAR OVER MILLIONS

Bungoma officials fight to control World Bank grants

JOHN NALIANYA/ Bungoma Lands executive Bramwell Murgor is entangled in a fight to control World Bank cash with managers of Kimilili and Bungoma town boards.

While the CEC has insisted that he should be in charge of the funds, the municipal board managers John Ndombi (Kimilili) and Gabriel Kibiriti (Bungoma) hold that they should be the accounting officers as enshrined in the Municipal and Cities Act.

Bungoma Municipal Board got Sh109 million from the World Bank as a grant while it awaits a further Sh84.5 million. Kimilili received Sh191 million and is awaiting Sh136 million.

COUNTIES NYANZA

BEFORE SCHOOLS REOPEN

Ensure mandatory Covid-19 tests for teachers, learners, state told

Migori education stakeholders said the extension period should be used to fumigate schools



MANUEL ODENY
@TheStarKenya

The government has been urged to ensure mandatory cost-free Covid-19 tests for teachers and learners before the schools reopen.

The call came from Migori county education stakeholders in reaction to Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha's weekend announcement that schools might reopen in June after a one-month holiday extension.

The extension period should also be used to fumigate all schools, Migori Kuppet chairman Orwa Jasolo, county parents association chairman Julius Kiverenge and Ndemra Primary School head Jared Nyakie said on Wednesday.

The three said candidates should be the first to go back to class.

On Sunday, Magoha said the reopening date will be extended by a month from May 4 when the second term was to start. President Uhuru Kenyatta ordered the closure of schools on March 15 after the announcement of the first three coronavirus cases in the country.

Education stakeholders the Star talked to yesterday cautiously welcomed the extension, but were unsure that the Ministry of Education will be ready, with the coronavirus pandemic yet to be controlled.

"We are happy the extension was pushed for a month. The government had not offered any direction ... we are afraid of last-minute orders which create confusion," Jasolo said.

He said the reopening plans should be finalised in May to avoid last-minute rush to hospitals by teachers and learners for Covid-19 tests. Kiverenge feared that parents might be forced to pay for face masks and coronavirus tests besides school fees.

Nyakie said schools are public places and should be disinfected before they are reopened.



Migori Governor Okoth Obado (right) when he received surgical masks, aprons, sanitiser, gloves, oxygen masks and infrared thermometers from Lwala Community Alliance. The items will be used by the health workers in Covid 19 fight in the county /COURTESY

OVERSIGHT

MP Wandayi: PAC speaks through reports, not at rallies

LAMECK BARAZA/ Ugunja MP Opiyo Wandayi has urged Kenyans to ignore reports that his committee is rarely in the news. He is the Public Accounts Committee chairman.

Wandayi was reacting to reports in one of the local dailies that criticised the PAC for rarely being in the news – for good or bad reasons.

The MP said many people have yet to understand how the Public Accounts Committee works. "It must be clear that PAC can only speak through its reports. It cannot be expected to make pronouncements in public rallies or such as fora."

The PAC chair clarified that the key role of the committee is to check corruption in the public sector, enhance accountability and ensure taxpayers get value for their money appropriated annually by the National Assembly.

He said the team does not strictly have a mandate over the implementation of its recommendations, but it works closely with the particular House committee that is charged with this responsibility.

The legislator said his committee is the only one that has had no scandal to its name during his tenure – from December 2017 to date.

FLATTENING THE CURVE

Ex-MP Obura distributes free masks to Kisumu residents

MAURICE ALAL/ East African Community and Regional Development CAS Ken Obura has started distributing free face masks to Kisumu residents.

The initiative is meant to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Obura aims to distribute 1.5 million masks in Kisumu's seven subcounties.

So far, more than 150,000 masks are ready for distribution in Kisumu Central, Nyando, Kisumu East, Muhoroni, Kisumu West, Nyakach and Seme.

Obura said some residents have been arrested for not wearing masks yet they do not have the capacity to buy them.

Residents of Nyando received the masks on Tuesday, while those in Kondele got theirs on Wednesday. Obura also distributed food to families displaced by floods in Nyando and Muhoroni. The CAS targets to reach families in 20 rescue camps in the two subcounties.

Through the Ken Obura Foundation, the former Kisumu Central MP is also seeking to help the elderly and other vulnerable groups.

He has engaged 30 tailors from the Kibuye open-air market to make the masks. "We are committed to empowering local tailors financially," Obura said.

Obura said he was responding to President Uhuru Kenyatta's call to all leaders to help fight coronavirus.

He urged leaders to unite and fight the virus. "This is not the time for politics. We should all come together and support the government's efforts in fighting the disease and helping the needy," Obura said.

He urged residents to observe the measures laid down by the Ministry of Health.



Tailors hired by East African Community and Regional Development Chief Administrative Secretary Ken Obura to make 1.5 million masks for free distribution to Kisumu residents /MAURICE ALAL

KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE SECOND ASSEMBLY
FOURTH SESSION

NOTIFICATION FOR THE KISUMU COUNTY COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND REGULATIONS, 2020

In the matter of consideration before the County Assembly of Kisumu on the Kisumu County COVID -19 Emergency Response Fund Regulations, 2020.

Pursuant to the Provisions of Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, and Section 110 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012; we wish to notify the General Public that the County Executive Member for Finance and Economic Planning has submitted to the County Assembly of Kisumu, the following under listed regulation for approval.

Kisumu County COVID -19 Emergency Response Fund Regulations, 2020.

Note:

1. Due to the current situation, members of the public are invited to submit any proposal or comments on the Kisumu County COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund Regulations, 2020.
2. Members of the Public are advised to visit ***www.kisumuassembly.co.ke*** for a copy of the Kisumu County COVID -19 Emergency Response Fund Regulations, 2020.
3. Submission may be sent or hand delivered to the following address/email so as to be received by 5th May, 2020.

The Clerk
County Assembly of Kisumu
P.O Box 86-40100
Kisumu
Email:kisumuassembly@gmail.com
Website: *www.kisumuassembly.co.ke*

COUNTIES RIFT VALLEY

MANSLAUGHTER

Court upholds 15 years for man who axed brother

FAITH NYASUGUTA/ In April 2013, James Kibor walked into their family land shouting that he would shoot somebody with an arrow.

Minutes later, he was dead of head injuries.

His brother Abraham Chebukwa was seen running away, holding an axe and saying he had killed his brother. The siblings fought over land Kibor had leased to a friend.

The crime occurred at Kamaram village, Chepsiro location within Trans Nzoia County on April 7, 2013.

Chebukwa was arrested and charged with murder.

In his defence, the accused testified that he had leased two acres of land to a friend, Samson, and he went to assist Samson to prepare the land for farming.

"At about 6pm, the deceased, who was angry because Samson had also leased the land, came towards me armed with a bow and arrow. Sensing danger, I ran away and left the two arguing," Chebukwa testified.

He said a few minutes later he heard screams but didn't find out why.

The High Court in Eldoret considered the circumstances, acquitted him of murder and convicted the father of two of manslaughter.

He was sentenced to 15 years behind bars, which he appealed.



The High Court in Eldoret /FILE

Chebukwa accused the judge of imposing too harsh a sentence, disregarding his age and the circumstances under which the crime was committed.

Presiding judges Hannah Okwengu and Amina Mohammed, however, found the sentence was neither harsh nor excessive. "We are satisfied the learned Judge considered all the relevant factors in meting out the sentence ... we have no reason to interfere," the duo directed.

WEST POKOT, ELGEYO MARAKWET

DNA to help identify victims of mudslides, says Natembeya

16 people are still missing and only four full bodies recovered



A survivor of the landslide is evacuated to safety /COURTESY



MATHEWS NDANYI
@TheStarKenya

The government will use DNA tests to help families in Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot identify the bodies of their relatives who were killed in mudslides and floods.

At least 32 people died in the tragedy when floods and mudslides swept through several villages in the two counties. Chesogon market was flattened, and so was a school and a police station. Two police officers died.

Of the 32, some 16 are still missing. Only four full bodies have been recovered, the rest are body parts.

"As per our records, 16 people are still missing, and we have only recovered body parts which cannot be identified except through DNA tests," Rift Valley regional coordinator George Natembeya said on Tuesday.

He said search teams have recovered only four full bodies. The majority of those who died were from the Elgeyo Marakwet, where about 150 families had been displaced. Another 130 families were displaced on the Pokot side.

Natembeya said recovered body parts are being preserved in morgues in Tot and Kapenguria.

The government has ended the search mission for those missing but residents said they are still searching for the 16 missing people.

Leaders led by Uasin Gishu Senator Margaret Kamar and Soy MP Caleb Kostany have faulted the government for terminating the search.

"The search should continue until residents are satisfied that no other body is lying out there," Kamar said.

However, Natembeya said a combined team, including the military, had extensively searched the area before calling off the exercise.

Natembeya said each of the families that lost a relative would be given Sh50,000 to help with burial preparations.

"Once the remains have been identified, or we confirm there is a missing person, the families will be given the money as assistance from the government," Netembeya said.

The government has also distributed food aid to all the displaced families along with all other starving residents in the area.

So far, the Red Cross and many other organisations have distributed food that will last the families three weeks.

"We lost more than 28 people in Elgeyo Marakwet. We are working with the state to ensure the affected families are assisted in the best way possible," Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Alex Tolgos said.

> **SENATOR KAMAR**
>
> *The search should continue until residents are satisfied that no other body is lying out there*

DISPLACED

Move safe grounds, Tunai tells residents in flood-prone areas

KIPLANGAT KIRUI / Narok residents living in areas prone to floods and mudslides have been urged to move to safe grounds to avoid loss of life.

Governor Samuel Tunai said everyone must take necessary precautions until the rains subside. He spoke on Tuesday after visiting flood victims at Olmeoshi Primary School in Transmara West.

Also present during the visit was Transmara West deputy county commissioner Mohammed Hassan Noor.

At least 114 families from Kimintet ward were displaced by floods on Sunday night after River Mara burst its banks following heavy rainfall. Their houses were submerged.

The county disaster management team distributed relief food and an assortment of non-food items to the victims.

The donations included 300 mattresses, blankets and mosquito nets, 100 bales of maize flour, 100 cartons of cooking oil and tents. The Health department also distributed masks, 40 litres of soap and medication to Emarti Health Centre.

THE DATA

32

Number of people who died in floods and mudslides

Of the 32, some 16 are still missing. Only four full bodies have been recovered, the rest are body parts.

SOME DETAINEES RELEASED

Police in Eldoret arrest, isolate 320 for defying curfew

MATHEWS NDANYI/ More than 320 people have been arrested and put in quarantine centres in Uasin Gishu county for defying the curfew orders and other Covid-19 control measures.

Uasin Gishu county commissioner Abdrisack Jaldesa said most of those arrested were brewing and drinking illicit alcohol.

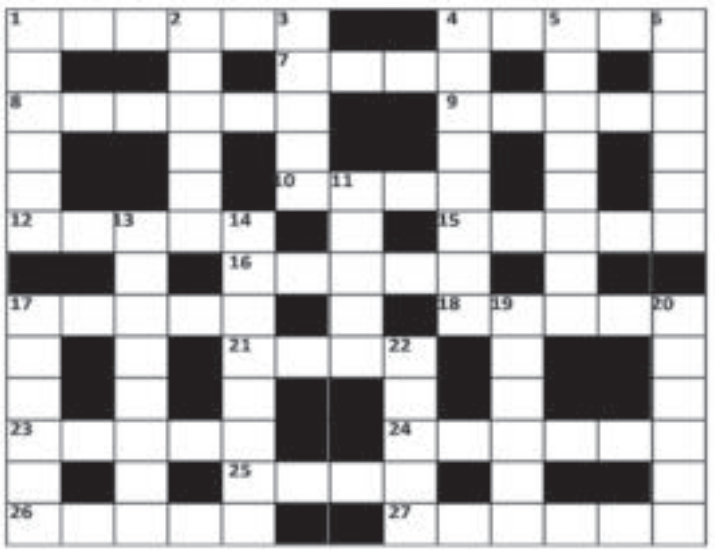
They are being detained at the Kaplelach isolation centre where they will be tested for Covid-19 and educated on the importance of obeying safety regulations. Then if they test negative, they are released. "We have to enforce the law fully and ensure we are all home by 7pm every day as directed by the government," Jaldesa said.

He said most of those arrested were picked up from drinking dens.

"They have been congregating in the dens, defeating the purpose of social distancing," Jaldesa said.

COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD



DOWN

1 Prime Minister of Russia (6)
2 Equine sounds (6)
3 President Obama's daughter (5)
4 President of Sao Tome and Principe (8)
5 Senator for Busia County (8)
6 Farcical afterpieces in the ancient Roman theatre (6)
11 Areas within a building enclosed by walls (5)
13 Former Governor for Vihiga County (8)
14 President of Central Africa Republic (8)
17 The Semitic language of the Arabs (6)
19 Supported (6)
20 Congenital absence of an arm or leg (6)
22 Senator for Mandera County (5)

ACROSS

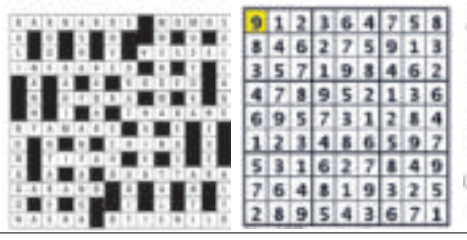
1 aircrafts without pilots that are operated by remote control (6)
4 a hereditary social class among Hindus (5)
7 Among other things (4)
8 President of Chad (6)
9 Former Governor for Bomet County (5)
10 A particular geographical region (4)
12 Something that causes fermentation (5)
15 Dens (5)
16 Governor for Migori County (5)
17 Chief Administrative Secretary for Foreign Affairs (5)
18 Former President of United States (5)
21 Too (4)
23 Any act of immoderate indulgence (5)
24 Prime Minister of Belgium (6)
25 Governor for Mandera County (4)
26 Largest crested screamer; native to southern Brazil and Argentina (5)
27 A progressive disease of connective tissue (6)

SUDOKU / SIMPLE

		1						
		9		6	2	1		
8			3			2		9
					9		4	
	3	6		1		9	2	
	8		4					
1		3			7			8
		5	8	9		3		
						6		

Fill the grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the sub-grids that compose the grid all contain all of the numbers from 1 to 9 one time.

Weekend's Solutions



WORD SEARCH

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

R	M	G	C	A	L	I	L	L	D	S	M	S
L	A	N	E	T	R	A	L	A	I	K	L	D
A	R	N	F	R	S	C	F	R	R	C	L	A
L	I	I	O	T	A	F	I	E	T	O	R	I
A	G	N	E	G	O	N	W	T	D	H	F	S
I	O	R	U	D	A	O	I	I	U	Y	S	Y
S	L	Y	I	T	L	R	H	U	O	L	U	E
H	D	L	L	F	E	C	D	T	M	L	I	A
C	N	I	N	I	R	P	D	P	S	O	I	P
U	Y	U	K	O	L	R	S	R	A	H	L	E
F	S	C	A	R	N	A	T	I	O	N	C	S
L	V	I	O	L	E	T	O	Y	P	A	S	O
S	I	T	A	M	E	L	C	F	E	A	C	R

ASTER
CARNATION
CLEMATIS
DAFFODIL
DAISY
FUCHSIA
GERANIUM
HOLLYHOCKS
IRIS
LILAC
LILY
MARIGOLD
ORCHID
PETUNIA
ROSE
SNAPDRAGON
SUNFLOWER
TULIP
VIOLET



ODDLY ENOUGH

Swedes get tattoo of chief epidemiologist

REUTERS/ It's not every day that the face of a chief epidemiologist is inked as a tattoo. But then it's not every country that has tackled the coronavirus pandemic like Sweden.

Anders Tegnell was until the start of the crisis an unknown civil servant at the Public Health Agency but has become the face of Sweden's strategy to keep schools, restaurants and businesses open during the outbreak.

Now the 64-year-old has name recognition on the streets and has been immortalised as a tattoo.

"I think he [Tegnell] is like the face outwards during this crisis and for me, I mean, I think he's doing quite a good job because he has been standing straight in the frontline and he's just been doing his job great," said Gustav Lloyd Agerblad, 32, admiring the image of Tegnell's face on his arm.

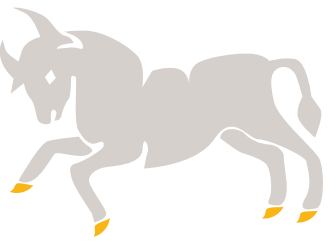
Sweden strategy has not been to stop the virus but to slow the spread enough for the healthcare system to cope. It has not been based on bans but on voluntary measures emphasising social distancing and good hygiene.

"I came up with the idea because I believe in our strategy and I believe that the authorities can't make us stay at home," said tattoo artist Zashay Rissanen Tastas as he inked Tegnell's face onto Agerblad.



Gustav Agerblad, 32, gets a tattoo on his arm in the shape of Sweden's chief epidemiologist Anders Tegnell, amid the Covid-19 outbreak, in Stockholm on April 27 /REUTERS

ALL IN THE STARS



TAURUS
April 21 – May 21

You'll be able to discuss your ambitions with your mate. Opportunities for travel and communication are evident.

GEMINI
May 22 – June 21

You will be able to dazzle others with your obvious charm and your outgoing nature. Help children with important projects.

CANCER
June 22–July 22

Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Don't let yourself get rundown.

LEO
July 23 – August 22

You need some help today. You could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric individuals.

VIRGO
August 23 – September 23

Spend time with friends and relatives. Travel for pleasure. Your efforts will be rewarded handsomely.

LIBRA
September 24 – October 23

Situations could easily get blown out of proportion if you have made unreasonable promises.

SCORPIO
October 24 – November 22

Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment. Don't hesitate to present your unique ideas.

SAGITTARIUS
November 23 – December 21

You can make extra cash if you act on a hunch. You may have some difficulties with someone you live with.

CAPRICORN
December 22 – January 20

Unpredictable events will disrupt your routine. Balance is required if you want stability.

AQUARIUS
January 21 – February 19

You are best not to discuss your personal life with others. Partnerships with creative people could lead to financial gains.

PISCES
February 20 – March 20

They will not have the patience to wait for you to complete things that they've asked you to do.

ARIES
March 21 – April 20

Don't let your emotional partner upset you today. Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position.

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The star shall not be held liable for any claims, loss or liability that arises from the product/service and claims made in the advertisement

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019
CHANGE OF USE

The owner of Plot **L.R. No.10389/159,10389/160** and **10389/161** Situated along Kangundo Road in Nairobi City County wishes to Change the User of the plot from **Single dwelling Unit to Commercial Cum Residential (Apartments),** subject to approval by the Nairobi City County Government.
Individuals, Institutions or Organizations etc with comments to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this notice to:

The County Secretary,
Nairobi City County Government,
P.O. Box 30075-00100,
Nairobi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

CHANGE OF RESIDENTIAL DENSITY FROM SINGLE-DWELLING UNIT TO MULTI-DWELLING UNITS (FLATS)

In pursuant of the provisions of: -
-The County Governments Act, 2012
- The Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2010
- The Physical and Land Use Planning Act, No. 13 of 2019
- The Physical Planners Registration Act (1996), Section 21

The owner of plot L.R No 1870/II/52 situated along General Mathenge Road, Nairobi proposes to Change the residential density from **Single-Dwelling Unit to Multi-Dwelling Units (Flats)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals and institutions with any objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days from the date of this notice to:-

The County Secretary,
Nairobi City County,
P.O. Box 30075-00100,
NAIROBI – GPO

Dated: 30th April 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019
CHANGE OF USER

The owner of Title no. **THIKA MUNICIPALITY BLOCK 19/1208** Proposes to Change the use of this parcel from **Agricultural to Residential Multi-dwelling units (Low-rise Apartments)** subject to approval by Kiambu County.
Individuals, institutions, organizations etc. with objections/comments to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of this notice to:

The Director of Physical Planning
Kiambu County
P.O Box 2344-00900
Kiambu.

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Piga simu 0722 881 878.

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Indian girl need life partner sms 0722115384

Indian m/f looking life partner Sms 0722115384

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Omondi a Widower leaving and working Nairobi, Age 44 with 2 Kids looking for a Serious Love That Can lead to Marriage if you are interested send your Profile and contact to blancohygiene@gmail.com

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Ray from Kitale needs mom aged 45-50. Sms 0707415978.

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Married but unhappy Ladies Want Someone To Romance Their Lives. 0723232330

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ABDUL FROM SOUTH C is looking for lady friend from nairobi. 0717054246

RAJESH, Single, smart, handsam, f stable, want a gud, faithful n romantk lady. sms 0712852468

SINGLE? lonely? divorced, widow, lonely rich hs/wfe, casual date, leisure luv, escort lovers, intrstd?sms0711689517

JOY, SINGLE, 31yrs, 3kids, need christian man, Godfearing.35-40 yrs,SMS0711689517

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Am kevin age 33 in nairobi. am looking 4a rich fncly-stbl sugar-mumy hiv-, who is tal, goodlo-

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SPORTS

SPORTS FEATURE

Strathmore: Kenya's hock





Program started in 2001 has seen the institution produce some of the best players at club and national team level



EVANS OUSURU
@Eousuru

1. Strathmore's Gilly Okumu in action during a KHU Premier League match at City Park Stadium **/ERICK BARASA**

Strathmore University boosts of being the institution of choice for students pursuing higher education and still keen on co-curricular activities following an elaborate sports program started in 2001.

The university offers facilities for students to engage in at least 11 sporting disciplines including, rugby (men), football (men), karate (men), handball (men), swimming (men), basketball (men and women), hockey (men and women), table tennis (men and women), volleyball (men and women), tennis (men and women) and scrabble.

Most of their teams play in the top leagues in the country and some have gone on to represent the country at championships abroad.

"In 2001, Strathmore University provided resources to develop sports teams for students as soon as the first degree undergraduates were admitted. To date, Strathmore offers a total of 11 sports with well-qualified coaches," a resource on the university's website, strathmore.edu, states.

"Through a strict selection of top talent in sports combined with top academic performances, the Strathmore teams have attracted top players. The Strathmore jersey does not come easily," Dean of Students, Paul Ochieng, adds.

Hockey, it seems, has been one of the biggest beneficiary in this program where they have two teams — the Gladiators (men) and Scorpions (women) — playing in their respective Kenya Hockey Union Premier League.

The Gladiators are three-time national champions, the best a team at the institution has achieved, while the Scorpions have been runners-up five times. The women's were silver medallists at the 2011 Africa Club Championships.

They can be credited with the growth of some of the best talents the country has ever had in the last decade.

Apart from Wazalendo, all the top six clubs in the men's Premier League have players who have passed through Strathmore.

Defending champions Butali Warriors, for example, have eight former Strathmore players including Festus Onyango, Francis Kariuki, Maxwell Fuchaka, Kennedy Nyongesa, Linus Sang, Brian Musasia, Derrick Kuloba, Frank Wanangwe as well as Constance Wakhura, captain at both the club and the national team.

Ben Wakhungu of Kenya Police and the Sikh Union brigade of Simon Odhiambo, Allan Iningu, Hosea Walucho, Davis Wanangwe and Fidelis Okello have also passed through the institution.

During the 2020 Tokoyo Olympic games qualifiers, the institution contributed seven players to the national teams.

Club captains Gilly Okumu and Onyango (now at Butali) donned the Kenyan jerseys in Stellenbosch, South Africa alongside new men's team captain Paul Omariba, Jane Muragu, Ruth Adhiambo, Diana Akinyi and Wakhungu (now at Kenya Police).

This success cannot go without the mention of veteran coach Meshack Senge.

The firebrand tactician has been in charge of Strathmore University hockey teams since 2009, taking over following the passing on of the late Eric Shiahale.

He went on to guide the men's team to the national title in 2009, 2010 and 2016) and consequently attended the editions of African Cup of Club Championship ACCC in 2010 (Ghana) and the Zambian showpiece the following year. The ladies team has played three times in the ACCC tournament (2013, 2014, 2017).

The scouting model has been their biggest asset according to Senge, who played in Italy for Suelli and Cus Bologna between 2001 and 2007 before a serious injury brought an illustrious career to an end.

"We have engaged scouts who search for raw talent in secondary schools from as low as Form Two and join the institution on sports scholarships once they finish their 'O' Levels. These talents are given the necessary coaching that transitions them from school hockey to a club set-up," observed the former national team captain.

"We attend secondary school competitions from the regional level to the national championships where we identify and monitor students we feel can fit our style of play. The monitoring process also enables us to identify players who not only fit into our system but also have different characteristics that can be vital to the team," hints the decorated coach who tutored Suelli in 2006.

"We instill technical and tactical awareness to our players by giving them a competitive platform to express their talent without putting so much pressure on them. We bring new players on board every season and this has enabled us to cope with the loss of players to other clubs annually."

The investment in coaching resources is another triumph card for the institution with Senge the only Federation of International Hockey FIH accredited coach in the country.

"I am the only accredited FIH high-performance coach in Kenya and probably in the region. I am also a South African Hockey Association (SAHA) Level 3 certified coach. Level 3 is the topmost category and their curriculum is similar to the one used in Europe. Exposure has also helped me understand the game better," adds Senge, who played hockey for close to three decades.

key conveyor belt







2. Scorpions' players jog prior to a Premier League match **/ERICK BARASA**

3. Strathmore coach Meshack Senge with his charges during a league match **/ERICK BARASA**

4, Gladiators' Ben Wakhungu charges past Clay Luvanda of Greensharks during a KHU Premier League match **/ERICK BARASA**

5. Strathmore coach Meshack Senge reacts on the touchline **/ERICK BARASA**

WE HAVE ENGAGED SCOUTS WHO SEARCH FOR RAW TALENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM AS LOW AS FORM TWO – SENGE

Onyango, who captained Strathmore last season before leaving for Butali, singled out the institution's strength and conditioning department as one of the most important assets.

"Strathmore is unique because of their gym sessions, which are mandatory. As a player, you have to attend and make a certain attendance percentage for you to be considered for team assignments," says the international player, who was Kenya's top scorer in the Olympic qualifiers with four strikes.

As opposed to teams that find it hard to access training facilities at the City Park Stadium, Strathmore have buses that ferry teams to the KHU-run facility along Limuru Road.

The men's team train on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays while Wednesday is reserved for strength and conditioning. Their female counterparts use the Astroturf on Wednesdays and Fridays. This gives them an advantage while playing against who train on no-so-modern pitches.

Onyango, who was the runner up in the top scorers' chart with 12 strikes in his ultimate season with Strathmore, adds: "Healthwise, Strathmore medics do a splendid job. Every season a thorough scanning on vital body organs such as the heart, chest and lungs is carried to establish any abnormalities that might impede a player on and off the field and a report is given."

"This enables the coach to understand the players he works with and push themselves hard to become better players."

Senior players in the team are involved in mentoring the junior ones. Alumni are still in touch with the teams and consulted when need be.

"I left Strathmore but I can still attend their sessions. Alumni work closely with the teams sometimes through friendlies and this inspires belief to the younger generation. I joined Strathmore when George Mutira, who was indispensable, was leaving and we are now teammates. There's continuity at Strathmore," he observes.

"In addition, Senge is a passionate and experienced coach who enjoys working with young players. His advice and instructions are reminiscent of a professional who knows his charges. Criticism is not a part of him."

Experienced Scorpions' forward Okumu reckons that the adoption of a unique playing structure by Strathmore comes in handy as players understand their roles on the field clearly. Okumu was the joint top scorer with Jacqueline Mwangi (eight goals) in the women's category last season.

"The structure used is similar to the one implemented in the national team whereby players understand their roles, their arrangement and positioning and also their responsibilities with and without the ball. Modern playing formations have been important too," says Okumu.

Individual discipline in carrying out duties is not only important in the growth of a player but also instills a sense of responsibility, maturity and togetherness, according to the widely-traveled attacker, who played twice in Germany last year.

"Societal values such as personal discipline are deeply ingrained. Players do the right thing at the right time and in the right place and this ensures there are no conflicts whatsoever. Being part of the group is always an honour," she says.

SPORTS LOCAL

TENNIS

Randiek turns focus on final exams

BY MESHACK KISENGE/ With all sporting activities in the country suspended, tennis sensation Ryan Randiek has shifted his focus on final exams set at the end of the year.

The youngster is among the lucky few candidates as programs in his school, which offers the American system of education, had not been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

While students in the Kenyan system are crossing their fingers to have schools re-opened after the one month period added by the government last weekend, Randiek's sole fear is that the centres accredited to administer their exams may delay in opening.

He, however, exuded confidence that the pandemic would fade away soon and allow students from all schools to continue with their studies.

"I am doing thorough revision and I hope normalcy will return soon and I will sit for my exams once the centres and all other schools are open. I am studying my units online as usual although I am in the process of transferring to another school to fully concentrate on my revision," said Randiek, who is in his final year.



Ryan Randiek in a past match **/OLIVER MORGAN**

CHARITY

Sweden-based defender Okumu offers boost to Roysambu families

BY FRANCIS WADEGU/ Sweden-based defender Joseph Okumu has followed the path of his international teammates Victor Wanyama, Johanna Omollo and Francis Kahata among others in providing a helping hand to the needy in society during this global health pandemic by donating household necessities.

The UF Elfsborg centre-half, who recently resumed training in partnership with Kahawa Sportive Soccer Academy and Magongo Kenya, came up with an emergency food programme aimed at helping sporting families adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Roysambu Constituency.

"Our target was to feed 100 families with a food bag worth Sh1,500 each but we surpassed our target and we now have to 160 families. We have now partnered with Cleanshelf Supermarkets to give out shopping vouchers to the families to do their own shopping," said Okumu.

He added that alongside his partners, they will continue the process as they seek to fully reach the 160 families.

ATHLETICS

Jepkosgei fights to remain afloat

Marathoner seeks distractions after races are postponed

BY EMMANUEL SABUNI/New York City Marathon champion Joyciline Jepkosgei is a disappointed athlete following the postponement of the 2020 London and New York City marathons.

The two World Marathon Majors races were set for this month and November respectively but have been shelved due to the coronavirus pandemic that continues to ravage the world.

Speaking in her home in Iten, Elgeyo Maratkwet County the world half marathon record holder said it was painful to miss the two events that she had so well prepared for.

"Just like any other sportsperson, I felt bad following the cancellations since I had prepared well for these races. However, I had to accept the decisions since they were taken in good faith," she said.

To erase these disappointments, the former Africa 10,000m bronze medalist revealed she has taken time to bond with her family and look after her farm where she cultivates potatoes and rears dairy cattle.

"Right now, I have taken time to learn much on the farm, planting potatoes and taking care of the dairy cows on our small family land," said Jepkosgei.

In addition, Jepkosgei, the 2017 Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) half marathon bronze medalist, is doing light training which will ensure that she doesn't struggle much once action resumes.

"I just take light morning training of 5km to 10km to ensure that I remain fit. It will be difficult once the world opens up for championships but I don't want to fail this test," said Jepkosgei.

However, she says the postponement of the races was a good thing since going ahead with competitions involving large numbers of people would have made it risky for everyone involved.



Joyciline Jepkosgei during the 2019 New York City Marathon **/REUTERS**

BASKETBALL

KBF to use coronavirus break to sort out players' cards, transfer disputes

BY DAN OWERRE /Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) want to use this period of inactivity to sort out players cards and transfer issues once and for all.

KBF first vice-chairman, Hilmi Ali yesterday said the executive has agreed on the issue and want it sorted once and for all.

"We want to start early preparations this time," said Ali adding: "We have agreed that all team managers should present players list and soft copy of passport size photos."

He said the league delay has given the federation the best opportunity to fix the problem before the season starts.

"We have the time before the league starts. I proposed this exercise three years back but it has never been implemented," said Ali.

The other issue is the streamlining of the transfer of players from one team to the other. "This also has never been smooth and need to be sorted," he added.

He said it is important to document the movement of all players before the league start and ensure the transfer fee is duly paid before allowing them to play.

Ali wants the transfer fee increased to ensure teams that lose players benefit from the money paid by the gaining clubs.

In a related development, KBF fixtures secretary Joseph Amoko said the fixtures will have to be revised once it is safe to play.

He had released the games scheduled for both the premier and the lower division league, running up to the end of July before activities were halted.

"I am just waiting for the situation to change," he said, "Once it is announced that it is safe and we can start our activities, I will do the necessary changes."

The league was to tip-off March 21.



Kisumu Lakers' Trevor Gari (L) challenges Philip Manase of World Hope in past duel **/FILE**

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

PSG still keen on Champs League

Parisians to consider playing Uefa matches abroad, says club boss

PARIS /Paris St Germain will look at playing Champions League home matches in another country after the French government on Tuesday decided to end the 2019-20 domestic season, the Ligue 1 club's president Nasser Al-Khelaifi said on Tuesday.

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe earlier announced that professional soccer, rugby and other league sports would not be allowed to return before September due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has hit the country hard.

France has the world's fourth-highest death toll from the virus—behind the United States, Italy and Spain—with nearly 23,300 deaths reported.

The French football league is expected to decide in May exactly how to end the Ligue 1 season but European governing body Uefa is considering the possibilities for resuming its Champions League and Europa League competitions.

"We respect of course the French government decision. We plan on competing in the Champions League with Uefa agreement, wherever and whenever it is held," Al-Khelaifi was quoted as saying by French media.

"If it is not possible to play in France we will play our matches abroad, subject to the best conditions for our players and the safety of all our staff."

PSG beat German side Borussia Dortmund 3-2 on aggregate to reach the Champions League quarter-finals before the pandemic forced the suspension of the season— with the second leg in Paris having been played without fans in the stadium.

All major European leagues have been halted due to the spread of the coronavirus and none have resumed yet. The Dutch Eredivisie cut short its season last week with no title awarded and no relegation or promotion.

Uefa has given leagues a May 25 deadline to inform it of their plans to restart domestic competitions. Any league cancelling its season would also need to produce a list of teams that have qualified for European club competitions.



PSG's Neymar celebrates with Mauro Icardi **/REUTERS**

FOOTBALL

Pardew leaves ADO Den Haag after four months in charge

LONDON/ ADO Den Haag manager Alan Pardew has left the Dutch club after only four months in charge, having at the weekend rejected a bonus payment after they held on to their top-flight status.

"The club and the 58-year-old coach have decided after positive consultation not to continue next season. Assistant coaches Chris Powell and Paul Butler, whose contracts were also due to expire, will also not return," the club said.

Pardew said in the same statement: "I have positive feelings for this club and I have enjoyed the passion of the fans. I look back on a beautiful adventure in the Netherlands."

Two days ago, the former Newcastle United and West Ham United manager said he would not take a bonus for avoiding relegation due to the Dutch season being terminated this week because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Brighton help raise more than 264,000 pounds for charities

LONDON/ Brighton & Hove Albion's players and directors have come together to collect 263,939 pounds ($328,472) which will be donated to assist charities that have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Premier League club said on Tuesday.

The club said Sussex charities for hospices, sick children, domestic abuse victims, bereavement care, food banks and more would benefit from the fund and the club has also asked staff and fans to donate if they are in a position to do so. The club's players donated a "significant portion" of their April wages while club chairman Tony Bloom and other directors also contributed.

"There's a collective desire from everyone within the squad and the club to do something for local charities suffering as a result of the crisis," said striker Glenn Murray.

"The people of Brighton & Hove and across Sussex have always been there for this football club going back a long way... We want to show the same support we've had from our community, week in, week out for so long."

Earlier this month, Brighton boss Graham Potter and senior members of the club's management took a pay cut for three months to ease the financial burden on the club during the crisis. Professional soccer in England has been suspended indefinitely since mid-March.

The British government's lockdown measures are in place at least until May 7, when the government is set to review the restrictions.



Brighton manager Graham Potter **/REUTERS**



Chairman of the FIFA Medical Committee Michel D'Hooghe **/REUTERS**

FOOTBALL

Matches should be shelved until September, says Fifa official

ZURICH/ FIFA's medical committee chairman Michel D'Hooghe has said football should not be played until at least the start of September to limit the spread of the new coronavirus and when it does resume that yellow cards be handed out for spitting.

"If there is one moment where absolute priority should be given to medical matters, then it is this one. This is not a matter of money but of life and death," D'Hooghe told Sky Sports News in an interview on Tuesday.

"This is the most dramatic situation we have lived in since the Second World War. We should not underestimate it, we must be realistic," he added regarding the pandemic which has forced the game's suspension in almost all countries.

The comments of the veteran Belgian football administrator come as the Bundesliga moves towards a possible re-start next month, while the Premier League is hoping games could be played behind closed doors in June.

D'Hooghe said it was too early for players to be coming into contact with one another, at least while social distancing regulations are in place.

"The world is not ready for competitive football, I hope this can change very quickly and I sincerely hope that. Today you need more patience, added D'Hooghe, a doctor who was formerly a member of FIFA's powerful executive committee.

"Football can only be possible if contact is possible again. Football remains a contact sport and contact is one of the first things everyone says that you should avoid."

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL



Barcelona's Jordi Alba in action with Atletico Madrid's Jan Oblak /REUTERS

LA LIGA

Ready to roll?

Spanish players can train individually from next week, says PM

MADRID/ Spain's professional footballers can start training again from next week, prime minister Pedro Sanchez said on Tuesday as he announced plans to relax the country's COVID-19 lockdown and bring the country back to normality by the end of June.

Players can begin individual training from Monday and could be training together in small groups a week after that as part of a four-phase plan to lift one of the toughest coronavirus lockdowns in Europe.

"Professional sportspeople will be able to train individually from May 4 in the first phase," Sanchez said in a televised address on Tuesday, although the lifting of social distancing restrictions will vary from province to province.

In the following phase, which could begin as early as May 11, training in small groups will be allowed.

The health ministry will reassess the situation every fortnight to determine when group training will be permitted, followed by the possibility of playing competitive games.

"The opening of high-performance centres with hygiene measures and increased protection is being considered as well," said Sanchez.

All football in Spain has been halted since March but by seeking to achieve some normality by the end of June, the prime minister has given hope for a resumption of La Liga, whose chief repeated on Tuesday a desire to complete the disrupted season.

"In Spain football is an important economic engine we need to reactivate," Javier Tebas said in a statement.

"I don't understand how there will be more risk playing football behind closed doors."

Spain has the second highest number of diagnosed coronavirus cases after the United States. They rose to 210,773 on Tuesday with fatalities since the start of the outbreak at 23,822.

But Monday's death toll of 301 was a third down from the record high of 950 earlier this month.

FOOTBALL

Derby players and coaching staff agree to take wage deferrals

LONDON / Derby County's first-team players, coaches, management and non-furloughed staff have accepted "substantial" wage deferrals to help negate the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Championship (second-tier) club has said.

British media reports said Derby captain Wayne Rooney was leading talks on behalf of his teammates against a proposal by the club to defer wages of players by 50 per cent and the striker's spokesperson had said he was not in a "wage war".

Derby did not give figures but said players had voluntarily agreed on a deferral "considerably more than has been reported in the media" and thanked Rooney for his support.

"First team players have voluntarily agreed on a substantial deferral...Everyone has been fully committed to help and play their part," Derby said in a statement. "The measures have been agreed as part of the ongoing work to protect the future of the club, our staff and the communities we serve, during these unprecedented times.

"The club would specifically like to thank Rooney and Curtis Davies, the Professional Footballers Association's club representative, for their help and support."

Derby said players, coaches and staff also made financial donations to their Stay Safe. Stay Fit. Stay Connected campaign, while non-playing staff will volunteer at a local food hub.

Soccer in England was suspended indefinitely last month due to the outbreak, forcing several Premier League clubs to adopt measures to cut costs.

Sheffield United, Aston Villa, Southampton, West Ham United and Watford all announced wage deferrals for their players while Arsenal said their players and coaching staff would take a 12.5% pay cut. Derby were 12th in the Championship when the season was suspended.



Derby County's Wayne Rooney / REUTERS



Swiss Attorney General Michael Lauber /REUTERS

WORLD CUP

2006 World Cup fraud trial expiry 'worrying' for Swiss justice system

ZURICH/ World soccer body Fifa said the expiry without a verdict of a fraud trial in Switzerland over a payment linked to the 2006 World Cup was worrying for the sport and the Swiss justice system.

The five-year statute of limitations in the case against former German Football Association (DFB) leaders Theo Zwanziger, Wolfgang Niersbach and Horst Schmidt and former Swiss FIFA official Urs Linsi expired on Monday before the Federal Criminal Court could rule..

They were accused of misleading the DFB about a 10 million Swiss franc ($10.3 million) payment.

The transfer of the funds triggered several investigations and Niersbach resigned as DFB president over allegations it was slush money to buy votes for Germany's bid for the tournament, which it ended up hosting. The four have denied wrongdoing.

Swiss Attorney General Michael Lauber faces calls to resign over the collapse of the case, which critics contend he handled inappropriately.

"The fact that the case has now ended without a result of any kind is very worrying, not only for football but also for the administration of justice in Switzerland," Fifa said.

It said it hoped the truth about the payment would eventually emerge, "and that those having committed wrongful acts will be duly sanctioned, if not in Switzerland, then maybe somewhere else."

The court suspended the trial last month, citing government instructions for people older than 65 to avoid public contact following the coronavirus outbreak.

But the attorney general's investigation has long been beset by problems, including when Lauber was barred from participating in investigations of corruption in soccer.

A Swiss court ruled closed-door, largely undocumented meetings he held with Fifa head Gianni Infantino had raised the appearance of bias.

Swiss broadcaster SRF reported on Tuesday that a member of parliament's court commission is drawing up a request to seek Lauber's removal, a formal process that would take weeks.

FOOTBALL

Major questions over restart of top leagues

New research shows players are at risk of coronavirus spread to lungs



Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry in action with Hannover's Miiko Albornoz in previous Bundesliga match /REUTERS

BY SIMON EVANS / Research from Germany and Italy suggests that footballers and other athletes face a particular risk of the coronavirus infecting their lungs, raising major questions over attempts to restart professional soccer.

The research, produced by Italian immunologists and lung specialists based at institutes in Berlin, Rome and Verona, suggests that due to strenuous exercise, elite athletes are more likely to inhale virus particles and direct them to the lower areas of the lung.

COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, can cause lung damage and complications such as pneumonia and, in severe cases, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

The preprint paper, which has yet to be peer-reviewed, also suggests that athletes who are asymptomatic could make their condition worse by infecting their lungs during strenuous exertion.

Soccer has ground to a halt in all major leagues in Europe and none have yet to resume. European soccer's governing body Uefa has set a May 25 deadline for leagues to outline their plans to re-start.

Leagues, governing bodies and clubs, however, have said they will only return when play is safe and that they will take medical advice.

In their paper: "The First, Comprehensive Immunological Model of COVID-19", Paolo Matricardi, Roberto Dal Negro and Roberto Nisini raise questions over the safety of playing while the virus remains at large.

"The pattern of breathing during strenuous exercise changes dramatically by a tremendous increase of ventilation (i.e.: inspiratory and expiratory volumes of air), and of alveolar ventilation in particular," the authors state.

"Professional athletes (are) particularly exposed (much more than individuals of common population) due to their frequent practice of extreme and long-lasting exercise."

The researchers state that the "ideal lungs" of athletes, while helpful in normal conditions, significantly favour the deep inhalation of infectious agents.

"Even the SARS-CoV-2 can then spread more easily to the deepest areas of the lungs during strenuous exercise, and there start its aggressive action," they said.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the name given to the 2019 novel coronavirus. COVID-19 is the name given to the disease associated with the virus.

"Not by chance, a great proportion of professional football players claimed the occurrence of fever, dry cough and malaise (and dyspnea in some cases) immediately after, or a few hours following their last official match," note the authors.

ASYMPTOMATIC ATHLETES

Adding to the dangers, the research says that players who have the virus but do not show symptoms, could make their condition worse by allowing the virus to move from their upper to lower airways.

Asymptomatic but infected athletes could exhale or eliminate aerosolised particles that may contain viruses which are then re-inhaled.

"These droplets or aerosol might be re-inhaled and facilitate the spread of the virus from the upper to the lower airways," the paper states.

The authors also look at the risk of the virus being transmitted during a game.

"In sports where many athletes are in close contacts, such as team sports or marathons, the same particles have high chances to be inhaled by other athletes, facilitating viral transmission."

"To emphasize that strenuous exercise induces much more frequent spitting of secretions and this can further contribute to the environmental SARS-CoV-2 spreading, particularly if the distancing recommendations are not strictly followed."

MLS

Henry cooks and waits for MLS to decide on season

TORONTO/ All Montreal Impact manager Thierry Henry says he can do is train, cook and wait to see when or if the Major League Soccer season will resume as countries ease novel coronavirus lockdown measures that have brought the global sport to a standstill.

"I'm trying to train in the morning, train in the afternoon and cooking that takes a lot of time already," said Henry, summing up his day during a Zoom conference call on Tuesday. "I know it sounds kind of boring but the situation makes it like that. "That's about it."

Like much of North American sport, MLS shut down in mid-March and ever since has been planning for a return to action that remains far from certain.

MLS had targeted a May 10th restart but has since conceded that may have been overly optimistic, last week extending a training moratorium through May 15 with reports the league is now looking at a June return.

"I am sure the commissioner (Don Garber) and whoever is making that decision are working extremely hard to figure out what we are about to do," said the Frenchman, who spent five seasons in the MLS with New York Red Bulls as a player. "All we can do on our side is prepare for whatever is going to come our way. "I don't know what is going to happen."

Canada's three MLS franchises, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver will present additional challenges for commissioner Garber. Canada and the United States, who closed their border to non-essential travel in March, have agreed to extend the closure until May 18 and could extend it even further.

More problematic, Quebec, the hardest hit of the Canadian provinces by the COVID-19 pandemic, last week announced there would be no sports, festivals and cultural events until Aug. 31. Soccer has ground to a halt in all major leagues in Europe and none have yet to resume.

Leagues, governing bodies and clubs have said they will only return when play is safe and that they will take medical advice. Last week the top-flight league in the Netherlands, the Eredivisie, cancelled the remainder of its season after the Dutch government extended a prohibition on public events to Sept. 1.

France's Ligue 1 appeared to have its season come to an abrupt end on Tuesday when Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced all sports leagues will not be allowed to return before September.



All Montreal Impact manager Thierry Henry /REUTERS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

HOCKEY

WHY STRATHMORE IS KENYA'S CONVEYOR BELT

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL SONY SUGAR'S FATE IS SEALED, INSISTS KPL CEO OGUDA

'Cancel season'

Sony believe annulling this year's KPL will create a path back to the top-flight



Former Sony player Martin Werunga charges past Tusker's Timothy Otieno during a past match / FILE



MESHACK KISENGE
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The 2006 champions Sony Sugar are hoping the season will be cancelled to enable them to reclaim their spot in the Kenya Premier League.

Sony were axed from the top flight in the first leg after dishing out three walkovers. Sony believe it will be unfair to determine the KPL winner and relegated teams from the first leg results.

However, KPL's Chief Executive Officer Jack Oguda drove the final nail into Sony's coffin on Tuesday evening after confirming that the season will not be rendered null and void.

Instead, he insisted that article 2.6.1 of the FKF statutes would come into play in determining the champion and relegated teams should the coronavirus persists.

The article states, where the league format due to circumstances of force majeure fails to be completed within the season, the league winner shall be determined as follows; 2.6.1.1: Before each and every club has completed its first round fixture the league shall be declared null and void.

2.6.1.2: where all the clubs in the league have completed the first round fixture but less than 75% league games have been played, the table standings at the end of the first round shall be considered as the final.

Oguda said prior to the suspension of the competition, the 75 per cent mark had not been attained and his office was justified in using the first leg standings.

He also added that Sony's results in the first leg had been cancelled early in the season and the decision was irreversible.

"Sony's fate is sealed. They stand no chance of returning to the elite league after failing to show up in three matches. We will determine the champion and relegated teams based on the first leg results in case the pandemic persists. Sony first leg results were cancelled and were hence dropped to the second tier," said Oguda.

Sony chairman Gabriel Otiende, however, believes KPL should borrow a leaf from European leagues and consider voiding the season for fairness purposes.

He alleged that a host of teams would still be relegated for failing to honour matches if the remaining matches are played, thanks to lack of money thus disrupting the composition of the league further.

He also lamented on the time left between now and the start of the new season.

"It is unfair for KPL to declare the winner and relegated teams from the first leg results. Even if the league resumes, I am certain a number of teams will dish out walkovers due to lack of money and would be relegated. Time is also not on our side considering that we aligned our calendar with that of Caf which means the pre-season and the new season is around the corner,"' he said.

Asked if he would challenge KPL at the Sports Disputes Tribunal, Otiende said: "We will cross the bridge when we get there but we maintain that the season should be cancelled if status quo remains. We are ready to assemble a team which will compete in the league," he added.

OLYMPIC GAMES

IOC's Coates says Tokyo Olympics not contingent on COVID-19 vaccine

MELBOURNE/ The Tokyo Olympics are not contingent on the development of a vaccine for the coronavirus, International Olympic Committee member John Coates said on Wednesday.

His comments come after the president of the Japan Medical Association (JMA), a powerful physicians' lobby, said on Tuesday it would be "difficult" for Japan to host the already postponed Games in 2021 without an effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Australian Coates, the head of the IOC's Coordination Commission for the Olympics, said JMA president Yoshitake Yokokura's comment was an "opinion".

"But the advice we're getting from WHO (the World Health Organisation) says we should continue to plan for this date and that is what we're doing, and that's not contingent on a vaccine," Coates told Australian Associated Press. "A vaccine would be nice.

"But we will just continue to be guided, as we must be, by WHO and the Japanese health authorities because in all of this, the health and wellbeing of the athletes and other participants in the Games is the number one priority."

The Games, originally set to start in July this year, have been rescheduled for 2021, to be held over July 23 to Aug. 8.

The delay was a major blow for Japan, which has spent $13 billion on preparations. Tokyo 2020 president Yoshiro Mori said in an interview published on Tuesday that the Games would be "scrapped" if they could not take place in 2021.



International Olympic Committee (IOC) Vice President John Coates (L) /FILE

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