



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE ON
CORONAVIRUS
UPDATE OF CORONAVIRUS IN THE COUNTRY AND
RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT 21TH APRIL, 2020

Day: 40

Brief No: 35

Fellow Kenyans,

Coronavirus has continued to cause destruction in every part of the world. As of today, the global COVID-19 pandemic cases stand in excess of 2.5 million, with 653,000 recoveries and 170,000 deaths. Here at home, the numbers have been rising every day. Even in these times, we still have cynical Kenyans who hold the view that this disease is not real. This is very disturbing, particularly in light of our growing numbers of people infected.

As we continue in this fight, we note that there are some of us who continue to disobey the measures and regulations announced by the Government. I would like to remind you that we are in a war situation, against an enemy that is not a respecter of age, status, gender, race or religion. Some of our young people deliberately break curfew regulations due to the false belief that they cannot catch this disease. You are wrong.

In the early days, we cautioned you on surfaces that are likely to be contaminated and aid in the transmission of the virus. Among such surfaces include groceries in supermarkets. I would like to acknowledge efforts made by many outlet stores for providing sanitizers to shoppers, and even ensuring that no shopper is allowed into shops without wearing a face mask. I am however concerned over the handling of goods by cashiers at the paying counters. These are all areas that can very easily be contaminated and lead to infections. I am therefore urging all supermarkets to devise innovative ways to address this matter. The same

should apply to banks, particularly in the aspect of sharing pens.

Fellow Kenyans,

This is a long journey that one cannot walk alone. I want to thank all individuals and corporates who have so far contributed to this containment effort. I particularly want to thank the Kenya Air force for deploying two aircrafts flying banners with the message to 'stay at home' and to thank our healthcare workers for their effort.

I want to thank the Kenya Editors Guild together with Kenya Medical Association and Association of Nurses for initiating a campaign dubbed 'Saa Sita'. In this campaign, at midday every Wednesday, all will stop and clap for the healthcare worker. This is to appreciate the role healthcare workers are playing during this time of COVID-19.

Let me also acknowledge the contribution of mobile network providers for their contribution to the national

Covid-19 campaign effort. Safaricom, through its foundation, and on top of other donations made so far, has further contributed thermal cameras worth Kshs. 10 million. These have helped to expand our screening capability. Additionally, Safaricom is considering supporting our healthcare workers with a free communication package that will include 3 months' internet bundles and airtime.

Yesterday, we did mention to you that the strategy that has been formulated and agreed globally as the most effective way of fighting the disease, which has also been cleared by the World Health Organization (WHO), rests on four pillars. These are **testing, isolating, treating and tracing.**

We have ramped up our capacity in all the four pillars. However, these parameters only become applicable when preventive measures of hand washing, social distancing, general hygiene and quarantine have failed. We do not want to get there. I therefore want to urge all our people to continue observing these simple, but very effective containment measures.

Today, our coronavirus situation is as follows; in the last 24 hours, we tested **545** samples, out of which fifteen (**15**) persons have tested positive for Coronavirus disease. This brings to **296** the total number of confirmed cases in the country.

Eleven (**11**) are Kenyans while four (**4**) are foreign nationals. Out of **15** positive cases, **7** persons are from Mombasa, six (**6**) from Nairobi and two (**2**) from Mandera County. None have a recent history of travel. With regard to gender, seven (**7**) are males and (**8**) females. The fifteen (**15**) are aged between **19-75** years of age.

Six (**6**) are from our quarantine centers and nine (**9**) were picked up by our surveillance teams. This is a clear indication that the infection is increasingly growing within our communities. It is therefore very critical that we strictly observe the containment measures.

I am glad to inform you that five (5) patients have recovered and discharged. We now have a total of **74** recoveries.

A total of **2,851** contacts have been monitored, out of which **2,121** have been discharged. **730** contacts are being followed at the moment. A total of **14,417** samples have been tested so far.

I thank you

For 

**SEN. MUTAHI KAGWE, EGH,
CABINET SECRETARY.**