



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE
ON CORONAVIRUS
UPDATE ON COVID-19 IN THE COUNTRY AND
RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT 3rd July

DAY: 113

Brief No: 107

Good afternoon. Welcome and thank you for joining us in today's COVID-19 briefing.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the last few weeks, we have been highlighting other health conditions that have compounded COVID-19 pandemic in the country. We have observed that, individuals with underlying conditions are more at risk, not only of contracting the disease, but also dying due to low immunity. One such condition is cancer, and according to available statistics, six patients of COVID-19 patients who have succumbed, were also nursing cancer.

Cancer has been slowly and quietly consuming our people. It is one of the most impacting disease on our people and the health facilities in recent times. Every household in the country has, in one way or another, been affected by this deadly disease.

Recognizing the burden of cancer in the country, His Excellency the President, on 1st August 2019, directed the Ministry of Health, to develop a cancer Policy to address the growing burden of the disease in the country. Today, marks an important milestone in the fight against cancer in Kenya, and we are proud to launch for the first time, the **Kenya Cancer Policy 2019-2030**. Alongside this policy document, we are also launching the **Breast Cancer Screening Pilot Report**. The Cancer Policy document, provides a framework on how to comprehensively manage the cancer burden in the country, through systematic implementation of evidence-based interventions in the area of care.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Health has put in place deliberate efforts to improve access to cancer services in line with the Universal Health Coverage agenda. Through the Managed Equipment Service (MES), the Ministry has availed x-ray, CT-SCAN equipment, ultrasound and mammography machines, to the counties to boost cancer diagnosis.

In collaboration with the counties, the Ministry of Health has established 10 county chemotherapy centers, which are all operational and fully functional. The Ministry has continued to support these centers with appropriate cancer drugs, especially during this period of COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure continued service delivery. This means that basic cancer care can now be accessed at a nearby county health facility. I want to urge our cancer patients, on active treatment as well as those on follow up, to embrace and utilize these services. With these cancer treatment and management centres, the number of Kenyans seeking cancer treatment abroad will be reduced.

Additionally, as part of the objective to upgrade cancer care services in the country, the Ministry recently operationalized the Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital. We are also in the process of establishing five additional radiotherapy centers at; the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Nakuru County Referral Hospital, Mombasa County Referral Hospital, Garissa County and Kisii County.

Focusing on the maxim that, prevention is better than cure, the Ministry launched the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to prevent cervical cancer targeting our 10-year-old girls. I therefore want to encourage parents, to take their 10-year-old girls for this vaccination at their nearest health facility. This vaccine is safe, effective and life-saving.

To all women, I want to remind them that cervical cancer screening services remain available in our health facilities, and I want to appeal to all eligible women to visit their nearest health facilities for screening at least once a year.

The Ministry has also developed and disseminated the **National Cancer Screening Guidelines** to all the 47 counties. I want to appreciate those counties that have continued to make use of these guidelines, to prioritize improvement of their cancer screening services including through continued dissemination to health workers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pertaining to breast cancer, it is the leading type of cancer in Kenya, with about 6,000 new cases every year. It is for this reason that the Ministry conducted a **Breast Cancer Screening Pilot** dubbed, the "Breast Health Awareness Campaign" whose report I will also be launching today. This pilot project will guide the scaling up of breast cancer screening services in Kenya.

I want to appreciate the Nyeri County Leadership, and particularly, the Nyeri County Health Department, the Kenya Network of Cancer Organizations, and the General Electric Healthcare, for the support they offered that ensured the completion of this pilot project.

Indeed, as I have already stated, prevention is better than cure, and embracing screening and wellness checks at individual level, is what will make the difference in the fight against cancer and other Non-Communicable Diseases in general. These diseases are silent killers and more often than not, their symptoms will usually appear when it is already too late. Let us remember that most cancers are curable particularly if they are detected early!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Turning to our COVID-19 situation, today, **247** people have tested positive for Coronavirus disease, out of **4,147** samples tested. This brings to **7,188** our case load of those confirmed positive. Our Cumulative samples tested so far now stands at **180,206**. From today's cases **242** are Kenyans while **5** are foreigners, and **164** are males, and **83** females. The youngest is **a one year old infant** while the oldest is **100**.

The cases are distributed in the counties as follows; Nairobi **153**, Mombasa **35**, Kajiado **15**, Busia **12**, Kiambu

12, Uasin Gishu 4, Machakos 4, Garissa 4, Murang'a 2, Nakuru 2, Siaya 2, Lamu 1, and Nyamira 1.

The distribution of the cases by sub counties; in Nairobi, the **153** cases are in; Kibra **(35)**, Westlands **(28)**, Dagoretti North **(16)**, Kasarani **(13)**, Embakasi East **(12)**, Starehe **(10)**, Langata **(8)**, Makadara **(6)**, Embakasi South **(5)**, Embakasi West **(4)**, Kamukunji **(4)**, Roysambu **(4)**, Dagoretti South **(3)**, Ruaraka **(3)**, and Embakasi Central **(2)**.

In Mombasa, the **35** cases are in; Mvita **(17)**, Likoni **(6)**, Changamwe **(4)**, Kisauni **(3)**, Jomvu **(3)**, and Nyali **(2)**. In Kajiado, the **15** cases are in Kajiado East **(10)**, Kajiado North **(4)** and Kajiado Central **(1)**. In Busia the **12** cases are in; Teso South **(8)**, Teso North **(2)**, and Matayos **(2)**. In Kiambu, the **12** cases are in, Kiambaa **(6)**, Ruiru **(3)**, Thika **(2)**, and Kikuyu **(1)**. In Uasin Gishu, the **(4)** cases are in Ainabkoi **(2)**, Kapseret **(1)**, and Turbo **(1)**. In Machakos, all the **4** cases are in Athi River while in Garissa the cases are in Daadab **(2)**, and Garissa Township **(2)**. In Muranga, the cases are in Maragua and Kiharu, in Nakuru the two cases are in Nakuru West, in

Siaya the cases are in Alego Usonga while the case in Lamu is in Lamu West and the Nyamira case is in Nyamira town.

On a positive note we are happy to inform you that today we have discharged **39** patients from various hospitals, bringing to **2,148** the total number of recoveries. We thank our healthcare workers for the good work.

Sadly, we have lost two **(2)** to the disease bringing to **154** our fatality in the country. Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the departed.

It is now my pleasure ladies and gentlemen, to officially launch the Kenya Cancer Policy 2019-2030, and the Breast Cancer Screening Pilot Report. Let us all join hands and work together in halting and reversing the burden of cancer in Kenya!

Thank you and God Bless You!



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