



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

8th April, 2020

PRESS STATEMENT ON PREPAREDNESS OF COUNTIES ON COVID-19

The Council of Governors during its brief to the public highlighted some of the efforts that County Governments have put in place to address COVID-19. We also commend the citizens who have heeded the call and follow the directives given by the relevant government agencies. We have witnessed in the last week increasing number of COVID -19 positive cases and deaths in the country.

This has informed the additional measures announced by His Excellency the President on Monday restricting movement in and out of certain counties to contain the disease and protect vulnerable citizens.

Today, I address you on the progress County Governments have made in the efforts to contain and stop further spread of the coronavirus disease.

What we have done so far: Measures in place

1. Non interruption of routine medical services

We assure the public that Counties have put in place measures to ensure that normal service provision for other ailments is not interrupted because of Coronavirus. Comprehensive Care Clinics

are open and accessible to citizens who require other services. Immunization services for children are continuing without interruptions, patients with chronic conditions such as cancer, diabetes continue to be attended to in our health facilities. We encourage citizens not to shy away from seeking medical attention if they have other ailments. Counties are doing what is possible to ensure that supply of medicines is not interrupted during these hard times.

2. Recruitment of additional Human Resources for Health

To address the gaps in Human resources, the National Government is supporting Counties by giving them conditional grants to recruit additional 5500 health workers in different cadres to boost manpower at all health facilities. County Public Service Boards are carrying out the recruitment of these staff to report to their work stations by 16th April 2020.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Provision of Personal Protective Equipment for our health workers is top priority for County governments to ensure that their health is not compromised even as they attend to patients. I therefore wish to commend the efforts of County Governments in acquiring PPEs for their staff amidst the challenge of inadequate supply in the country.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards has certified the quality of PPEs locally produced. There are now some SMEs in Counties already producing these PPEs. We also urge the National Government to

provide adequate PPEs for security personnel so that they are able to carry out their responsibility without being infected.

4. Testing for COVID -19

We laud the efforts of the National Government to operationalize additional laboratories to boost the testing capacity in the country. This will be very useful as the disease spreads very rapidly.

5. Quarantine facilities

Through County Emergency Response Teams, all 47 County Governments have identified in additional facilities to serve as quarantine within the counties. These are mainly boarding secondary schools. We wish to assure the public that all measures have been put in place to ensure that the identified facilities are decontaminated and safe for the children's use when schools re-open. Beddings will be provided for use and disposed off according to existing public health regulations.

6. Water Provision and Sanitation

Most County Governments have purchased water treatment chemicals for water companies and also shouldered the responsibility of providing clean drinking water to needy communities. County Governments are providing sanitizers to the public for free.

Other Counties like Mombasa County, are now constructing walk through sanitizer machines that clean up the whole body and not just hands to deal with the issue of social distancing at the ferry.

7. Face Masks

County Governments in collaboration with KEBS have directed their SMEs to start producing masks. The Boda boda riders have been provided with masks through the County Governments to ensure their own safety and safety of their passengers.

8. Food Security

County Governments have already distributed seeds to the farmers to ensure that we address the issue of food security. The farmers are receiving support to grow food for short, mid and long term. We urge the national fertilizer subsidy programme under the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure they deliver fertilizer to farmers.

County Governments in collaboration with the National Government continue to put adequate measures to manage the locust invasion, however, we urge the National Government and development partners to support County Governments with spraying pesticides and equipment.

The current heavy rains in some parts of the country has led to floods hence affecting food security. Crops from farms have been wiped out raising the cost of food. Counties are in the process of relocating the affected population to higher grounds as they put in place food subsidies to be distributed.

9. Devolution Conference

The Devolution Conference is postponed to a later date this year. The new date shall be communicated.

Finally, we urge all members of the public to remain vigilant as the risk of transmission at the community is higher with more confirmed cases.

We ask them to report any suspicious persons who have refused to self-quarantine. We have installed emergency lines in all the 47 County Governments – let us utilize them.

Signed

**H. E. Hon. FCPA Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, EGH, CGJ
Chairman, Council of Governors**