



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

12th August, 2020

PRESS STATEMENT ON PREPAREDNESS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ON COVID-19 – WEEK 23

As you are aware, all the 47 County Governments have been affected by the novel coronavirus. This therefore calls for concerted effort from all the stakeholders.

County Governments have continued to enhance their response measures towards COVID-19. We appreciate the efforts by the Ministry of Health in assessing the County Governments' level of preparedness and the overall status of healthcare. Whereas Counties are making effort in addressing the pandemic, we take cognizance of the challenges cited during these visits, one of which is stigmatization.

As Council of Governors, we have strived to create awareness on Coronavirus through radio and TV programs conducted on a weekly basis. However, we note that this is not enough hence there is need for complementary effort from stakeholders. In this regard, we appeal to all media houses and the Civil Society Organizations to partner with County Governments and conduct civic education on COVID-19

through their platforms. This will go a long way in equipping the members of the public with the much needed information.

Further, in line with the Council of Governors mandate on sharing of information on the performance of Counties, we have continued to provide a platform for sharing of best practices through Community of Practice Forums in various sectors. These forums have brought together key stakeholders including members of the public for purposes of sharing experiences and lessons learnt.

In the last one week, the 47 County Governments have addressed themselves to the following: -

1. Active quarantine facilities

40 Counties reported on the status of active quarantine facilities. Currently, there are **818 people** in these facilities and **1,044 people** who were confined in public quarantine facilities have been released.

Cumulatively in 40 Counties, **10,498** tests have been carried out of which **1,106** people have tested positive. Of this number, **177** are healthcare workers who tested positive across the Counties.

2. Training and sensitization of Healthcare workers

40 Counties have trained and sensitized an additional **1,272 healthcare workers, 1,505 Community Healthcare workers.**

3. Implementation of Home-based Care

Currently in 37 counties, there are **630** patients under Home-based Care. In the last one week, **183** patients confined in home-based care have recovered.

County Governments have continued to support COVID-19 patients through nutrition assessment and psychosocial counselling to help them manage the virus and equip them with the necessary health education.

4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

County Governments have ensured uninterrupted water connection and installation of handwashing facilities with soap in the Isolation facilities, markets and bus stations. This has helped to curb the spread of the virus.

Additionally, with the support of development partners, a provisional website (<https://public.tableau.com/profile/ken.wash>) has been established to track COVID-19 WASH interventions. The platform disaggregates the Information County by County which includes support from various partners. This is aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability and identify gaps for timely intervention. Once again, I would like to thank UNICEF who have provided a total of **233 tons** of chlorine and alum chemicals to 13 Counties. Asante sana

5. Gender Interventions

On 10th August, 2020 the Council participated in the launch of the Women's Empowerment Index, County Poverty Profiles and County Budget Briefs which detailed the needs of women and children in all 47 Counties. This will inform policy planning, budgeting and monitoring at the county level to improve the wellbeing of women and children who have been the most affected during this period.

Further, the Council, through the support of the UN Women has embarked on distributing dignity packs to women in isolation and quarantine facilities. This initiative will go a long way in ensuring that women in these facilities have the necessary supplies to manage their menstrual hygiene with dignity.

We call upon stakeholders to support Counties in the provision of dignity packs for vulnerable women and girls across the Counties during this period.

6. Support to Police and Prison Departments

County Governments are committed to supporting the Police department to check the infection rate among suspects who are held in police cells. At the same time the Counties provide support to the Prison Department to ensure that the remandees and prisoners are not endangered by this pandemic.

The Counties shall provide laboratory technologists to collect samples from suspects who are held at police stations so that the police do not struggle to transport them to testing centers. We urge the National Government to fast track the testing of collected samples from the police suspects and prison departments.

7. Release of Ksh. 29.7 billion to Counties

We would like to thank the Treasury for finally releasing Kshs. 29. 7 billion for the Month of June, 2020 to Counties. However this money has not so far been accessed by Counties because the IFMIS was only opened yesterday (Tuesday 11th August, 2020) in the afternoon. This money will be accessed by Counties by the end of this week, which will go a long way in supporting the fight against Covid -19 and other operations.

8. Sub – national Governments Covid -19 Virtual Conference

In the last week of this month, the County Governments shall hold a virtual conference to take share lessons on how they have managed the Pandemic and continued to provide Government services. The conference will bring on board National Government Ministries, Regional and International organizations to share experiences of dealing with the pandemic. This shall be the last week of August. We would like to urge all Kenyans to register and participate in the conference as there shall be a lot to learn and share because Governments and other institutions have applied different strategies in addressing the pandemic but the ultimate goal has been similar – **to stop the spread of the virus in our communities.**

9. Launch of LREB COVID-19 Advisory and Strategy Committee

The Lake Region Economic Block will unveil the COVID-19 Advisory and Strategy Committee on 19th August 2020 at the LREB Head Quarters. The committee comprises of eminent persons from the region. The Interior Cabinet Secretary Hon. Dr. Fred Matiang’i has accepted to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Conclusion

As we continue in the fight against the pandemic, we emphasize on personal responsibility and concerted effort from all stakeholders. These times are unprecedented and therefore call on all of us to behave in an extra-ordinary manner.

I urge us to continue adhering to the already existing guidelines so that we not only keep ourselves safe but also those around us.

Asanteni sana!

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya', with a long, sweeping underline.

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