



## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020

### **PRESS STATEMENT ON PREPAREDNESS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ON COVID-19 - WEEK 26**

County Governments have continued to play a key role in stemming the spread of the virus since we reported the first coronavirus case in the Country five and a half months ago.

Indeed our efforts have not been in vain as we have seen a decline in the number of positive cases which stands at an average caseload of 250 positive cases per day.

As we forge forward with the fight against the pandemic, the Council of Governors held a virtual COVID-19 conference on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2020 with a view to take stock of the experiences accrued in the last five and a half months and recommended strategic interventions that can be employed during and beyond this pandemic. The conference culminated in resolutions that address issues of common interest to both levels of Governments. It was agreed among other issues THAT:-

- i. Both levels of Government to sustain the strong intergovernmental relations exhibited during the COVID-19 period by applying structural and transformative response towards future pandemics.
- ii. The National Government and the County Governments to jointly develop a post COVID-19 socio-economic re-engineering and recovery strategy for the Country.

- iii. Both levels of government to strengthen healthcare systems and fully roll out Universal Health Coverage.
  - iv. Both levels of government to strengthen accountability and actively fight corruption by embracing open government and publicize tenders and awarded contracts on County and National Government websites.
  - v. Both levels of government to stimulate local manufacturing of COVID-19 commodities in order to meet the local demand, promote industrialization and create job opportunities.
- The Council sincerely commends H.E the President for accepting to preside over the conference as Chief Guest, and for his commitment to ensure that Kenyans access quality healthcare. His directive to the Ministry of Health to begin working on a plan on how to deal with mental health and well-being in the Country is very welcome. County Governments will work closely with the Ministry to ensure that mental health is prioritized. The Ministry was further directed to come up with an open mechanism for the public to track award of tenders. This will greatly assist counties to also promote good governance, accountability and service delivery in a transparent and accountable manner.

We commit to ensure that the above resolutions agreed upon during the conference will be implemented to the letter as we await for the National COVID-19 conference that will be held in the next two weeks.

Meanwhile, in the last one and a half weeks, the 47 County Governments have continued to address interventions that seek to limit the spread of the virus in the following ways:-

## 1. Status of isolation beds in Counties

Cumulatively, 32 Counties have now attained the 300 bed capacity in the isolation facilities. The remaining 15 Counties are working towards achieving the same soonest possible.

## 2. Active quarantine facilities and Testing

**46 Counties** reported on the status of active quarantine facilities. Currently, there are **1,110 patients** in these facilities and **1,741 people** confined in public quarantine facilities have been released.

Cumulatively in 46 counties, **25,023 tests** have been carried out, of which **167** healthcare workers tested positive and they are all receiving treatment.

## 3. Training and sensitization of Healthcare workers

46 counties have trained and sensitized **4,774** healthcare workers. Additionally, **6,454** community health volunteers have been trained and sensitized on the management and response of COVID-19.

Cumulatively to date, **101,377 healthcare workers** and **76,193 community health volunteers** have been trained and sensitized across the 47 County Governments.

## 4. Implementation of Home-based care

There are **312 patients** being managed under home-based isolation care across 47 Counties. A total of **569 people** initially confined in home-based care have fully recovered. We encourage members of the public who are asymptomatic to embrace the home-based care and adhere to the guidelines so as to stem the spread of the virus.

## **5. Domestic Tourism**

In my previous statement, I reported on the initiative put in place on profiling of tourism products across the 47 Counties. So far 29 Counties have submitted an inventory of their tourism products.

We urge the remaining Counties to finalize on their inventories as the same will inform the creation of detailed and diverse tourism packages which will be made available in the different marketing platforms.

### **Challenges:-**

#### **1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Formula**

Despite our call to Senate to expeditiously conclude this matter, we note with concern that the 12 member Senate committee is yet to build consensus on the formula. This has significantly affected service delivery by County Governments and delay in staff salaries. We are optimistic that this will soon be resolved however we note that services in all Counties are slowly grinding to a halt and urgently ask the National Treasury to release 50% of the County equitable share of revenue so as to facilitate payment of salaries and health insurance for frontline workers and other County employees. We are aware that National Government is operating but County services are slowly collapsing we need to pull together as two levels of government.

#### **2. Transport Sector**

Public Transport continues to be the weak link in the fight against COVID-19 in the Country. We note that the measures to control the

spread of the virus introduced by the Government in the sector, are no longer being followed in earnest. Failure to adhere to the transport guidelines could jeopardize efforts to curb local transmission of the coronavirus.

We call upon the matatu owners association to help us in this fight by ensuring their members observe the set guidelines so as to curb the spread of the virus. All Kenyans should be deeply concerned about this brazen failure to respect guidelines that will contribute to keeping all of us safe.

## **Conclusion**

We continue to urge all Kenyans to comply with the preventive measures issued by the Government. We need to continue wearing our masks properly, maintain social distance, sanitize and wash our hands regularly. We also encourage all Kenyans to undertake the COVID-19 test every so often – this could save your life today.

Asanteni Sana! God bless Kenya.

**Signed:**



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