



## **COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

**15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

### **PRESS STATEMENT ON COUNTY GOVERNMENTS PREPAREDNESS ON COVID-19 WEEK 32**

In the past weeks we have witnessed the number of COVID-19 positive cases fluctuate. This is an indication that the virus is still here with us and therefore we must all continue observing the set guidelines.

On a positive note, a significant number of COVID-19 patients under home-based care and quarantine facilities have recovered. This has been achieved through concerted effort of both levels of Government and the healthcare workers who have remained committed in this course.

We however note that the Counties of Nairobi and Mombasa have continued to record the highest infection rate of COVID-19. In this regard, we encourage members of the public to remain vigilant and implement the health guidelines put in place.

In the last two 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. Active quarantine facilities and Testing

**34 Counties** reported on the status of active quarantine facilities. Currently, there are **246 patients** in these facilities and **134 people** confined in public quarantine facilities have been released. As of this week, 16 Counties do not have suspected cases in quarantine facilities.

Out of the tests carried out across the Counties, **298 healthcare workers** have tested positive in the last two and half weeks and they are all receiving treatment.

## 2. Training and sensitization of Healthcare workers

**43 counties** have trained and sensitized **4,860** healthcare workers. Additionally, **8,602** community health volunteers have been trained and sensitized on the management and response of COVID-19.

Cumulatively to date, **113,070 healthcare workers** and **94,231 community health volunteers** have been trained and sensitized across the 47 County Governments.

## 3. Implementation of Home-based care

Currently in 34 Counties, there are **1,056 patients** being managed under home-based isolation care. A total of **6,665 people** initially under home-based care in the last two and a half weeks have fully recovered. County Governments have continued to support patients under home-based care.

## 4. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Devolution Conference

The Council of Governors together with other stakeholders have today commenced the planning of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Devolution conference that shall be held in April, 2021 in Makueni County. The conference shall

focus on climate change as well as take stock of the experiences accrued during the COVID-19 period.

We urge all stakeholders to participate in the planning of the conference as it requires an intergovernmental and multi-sectoral approach.

## **5. Performance Management Framework**

We encourage County Governments to strengthen their performance management system while integrating COVID-19 response and management in the new cycle for FY 2020/21. This will actualize the resolution made during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Devolution Conference that requires all Counties to operationalize performance management framework in County Governments as a tool for enhancing service delivery.

We appreciate the UNDP for their support in strengthening performance contracting in Counties.

## **6. Hosting of the Africities Summit**

The Council of Governors together with the Ministry of Devolution and the County Government of Kisumu are jointly planning for the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Africities Summit that will be hosted in Kisumu County in November 2021. The Africities is a Pan Africa conference that brings together the leadership of Cities and Subnational Governments and their Associations for the advancement of decentralisation and local governance with the aim of improving the living standards of the citizens.

We anticipate that the Summit will cover the lessons that the subnational Governments have learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **7. County Donations**

We wish to thank all partners who have continued to support us in responding to the pandemic. More specifically, we appreciate UNDP for distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to target Counties. This will complement the efforts of County Governments in prevention of transmission and management of COVID-19 positive cases. We urge other partners to continue supporting Counties in the fight against COVID-19.

## **8. Food Security**

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges to the agriculture sector hence affecting livelihoods and food security. The Council wishes to thank the President for issuing the following directives:

- That the recommended minimum selling price of maize by farmers shall be Kshs. 2,500 per 90 Kg bag;
- That the maize drying charges at the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) be lowered by 50 per cent from the current Ksh. 40 per unit to Ksh. 20;
- That the National Government will ensure maize driers are available in all maize growing areas by the next season; and
- That unused NCPB stores countrywide be availed to farmers, famers' groups and traders for storage at affordable costs.

We support the aforementioned directives as they aim at protecting farmers from exploitation and ensure that they do not incur losses during this period.

## Challenges:-

### 1. Transport Sector

In the last two weeks about 3,700 truck drivers have been stranded at the Malaba and Busia border points for lack of COVID-19 testing occasioned by lack of reagents to conduct COVID-19 tests. This has led to long queues of over 30 kilometres and massive losses for transporters. We call upon the Government to urgently address this issue and fast-track testing and timely release of results.

We also note that there has been laxity in the implementation of the COVID-19 regulations among the matatu operators and users. We urge the Ministry of Transport and County Governments to ensure strict adherence of the regulations in the transport sector.

### 2. Disbursement of the County Equitable Share

Despite the assent of the County Allocation of Revenue Act on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020, County Governments have only received disbursements for the month of July and August amounting to Kshs. 52.2 Billion.

We call upon the National Treasury to henceforth effect disbursements of the County Equitable share of revenue without undue delay as required by both the constitution and the PFM Act which stipulates that, *“The National Treasury shall, at the beginning of every month, and in any event, not later than the fifteenth day from the commencement of the month, disburse monies to county governments for the expenditure of the following month.”*

## Conclusion

We urge all Kenyans to adhere to the preventive measures issued by the Government from time to time. Further, we encourage members of the public to continue wearing masks properly, maintain social distance, sanitize and wash hands regularly so as to avoid a resurgence of COVID-19.

Ahsanteni Sana!

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya', written in a cursive style.

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