



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE ON CORONA VIRUS.

PRESS STATEMENT: UPDATE ON COVID-19

The National Emergency Response Committee on Coronavirus Chairman Hon Mutahi Kagwe has today met with the Committee of Health for the Council of Governors and all CECs for health from all the 47 Counties to address the issue of preparedness at the County level.

During the meeting held at the COG offices at Delta house, Hon Kagwe launched the County Emergency Response Committees on Coronavirus. The governors were represented by Isiolo Governor, Dr Mohammed Kuti who is in charge of health at the COG. He was accompanied by Machakos Governor Dr Alfred Mutua.

The proposed composition of the County Emergency Response committees on Coronavirus will have the Governor as the Chairperson while the County Commissioner will Co-Chair. Members will include the CECMs for health, Finance, Public Works, Education, Chief of staff at the office of the Governor, Chief Officer health and County Police Commander. The Secretariat will be from the County Director of Health.

And the Cabinet Secretary gave the Counties two days to come up with budgets on the logistics and equipment required for the setting up of those emergency response centers for purposes of having them funded appropriately.

He also asked the Counties to establish contingency funds for public health emergencies as well as support construction and equipping of isolation facilities in strategic locations.

Hon Kagwe disclosed that Mbagathi hospital in Nairobi which has been earmarked for use will be up and running by tomorrow for purposes of treating any persons who might be infected with the deadly virus.

At the Counties, Hon Kagwe noted that all level five and referral hospitals in conformity with the President's directive will be used as special facilities to treat and isolate those infected with virus in the event they arise.

Hon Kagwe who was accompanied by ministry of health officials led by the Principal Secretary Susan Mocha he defended the issue of self-quarantine saying it had been misunderstood whereas it was the best practice globally when it came to dealing with the virus.

The Cabinet secretary said areas such as markets and villages where there are large numbers of people the issue of self-quarantine would be applied in the event of an infection.

He appealed to members of the public to observe basic stands of hygiene and sanitation as a precautionary in markets, supermarkets, Matatus, churches and any other places frequented by large numbers of people.

"People need to observe cleanliness such as washing and sanitization of hands because the virus is transmitted through direct contact, coughing and sneezing as well as touching surfaces contaminated with the virus," he added.

COG indicated that they had already rolled out programs in local vernacular stations in some counties to educate the people about the virus as well as preventive measures.

The end.



Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, EGH.

NERCC- Chairman

4th March 2020.