



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE UPDATE OF CORONAVIRUS
IN THE COUNTRY AS AT 23rd MARCH 2020

Yesterday I updated you on Coronavirus disease outbreak in the country. We have called you again this afternoon to appraise you on what has transpired in the last 24 hours.

Today we have received confirmation of one (1) more case of a patient who has tested positive for Coronavirus. This brings the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Kenya to sixteen (16).

The latest case is a close contact of one of the eight cases we reported yesterday. The Ministry, working with County Governments has traced **646** persons who had come into close contact with the confirmed cases. **Ninety six (96)** of these contacts have already been released from our follow up program after completing the 14 days follow up period. Those remaining in our follow up list are **550**.

All the patients, except one who is at the coast are in stable condition. **Eleven (11)** individuals are currently admitted at Mbagathi Hospital awaiting test results.

Yesterday if you may recall we also addressed the issue pertaining to the Public Transport sector. We reminded those operating in this sector to adhere to the directive we gave on March 20, 2020.

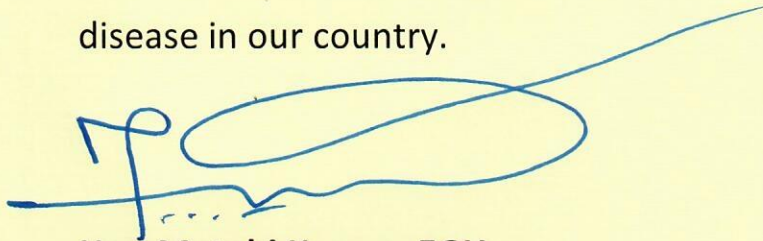
It has come to our attention that several public transport operators have now resulted to increasing fares as a result of this directive. I want to make a passionate appeal to those in the matatu industry and others in the transport sector not to increase fares for our commuters. By so doing it will be counter productive as we continue to fight this virus in our country.

As we had indicated yesterday, we have suspended all international flights effective midnight Wednesday, 25th March 2020 as one of the key measures to prevent importation of additional cases into the country.

Let me reiterate that **ALL passengers** coming into the country between now and Wednesday midnight will undergo mandatory quarantine at their own expense at government designated facilities.

I want to thank the hotels that have already accommodated travelers that have come into the country and are being held under mandatory quarantine. I am also urging them to work with our teams from the Ministry of Health to train their staff in handling the new guests.

We are encouraged to note that majority of the people have complied with the measures we have so far announced. We continue to appeal to Kenyans to take the matter seriously and strictly observe the advisories issued which are ALL aimed at containing the spread of the disease in our country.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop and a horizontal line extending to the left.

Hon Mutahi Kagwe, EGH

CABINET SECRETARY