



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE
ON CORONAVIRUS
UPDATE OF CORONAVIRUS IN THE COUNTRY
AND RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT 28TH May 2020

Day: 77

Brief No: 71

**Members of the Fourth Estate, my fellow Kenyans,
Good Afternoon.**

Wananchi wapendwa, I am delighted to be in your midst, and to inform you that the National Government appreciates the important role that every Kenyan has played, and continues to play in combating this virus. As I have often stated, this is a disease that the Government cannot fight without the support and cooperation of the people. It is a fight whose success is heavily dependent on active involvement of every individual. I want to thank Kenyans for holding each other's hands and fighting

together at the two levels of Government. We must continue to cooperate, if victory is to be realized nationally. Remember, corona in one county is corona in all counties.

Being here in Kiambu County, is a continuation of visits by the Ministry of Health officials to Counties to assess the level of preparedness, and to determine support needed to enhance readiness to combat this virus. Evaluating Counties readiness is of critical importance considering that this disease is now within the communities.

As I already mentioned, infections are growing within the counties. Thirty-Two out of 47 counties, Kiambu included, have so far recorded cases of the disease. This number accounts for more than 60% of the counties affected. Kiambu County has recorded 39 cases, placing it at number 4 behind Nairobi (835), Mombasa (490) and Kajiado (65). This is a worrying trend, and we must collectively stop it by observing and practicing the containment measures that we continue to advocate for.

These include regular washing of hands, social and physical distancing, avoiding gatherings, proper wearing of face masks, as well as staying at home whenever possible. These measures may sound simple, and therefore easy to ignore. But experience from elsewhere has shown that they are the most effective way to tackle this virus. These measures must be complied with by all of us and at all times, whether at the market place, garage or even construction sites.

As the Ministry of Health, we will continue to work closely with the counties and provide support as appropriate, in order to upscale counties capacities. For instance, the Ministry has facilitated the training of healthcare workers in every County, and has ensured that over 11,000 healthcare workers have been trained.

Further, the Ministry continues to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and other commodities to various health facilities for use by our health workers. Our healthcare workers must be protected because they are at the frontline of this fight.

Fellow Kenyans,

Health is not just about the Corona pandemic, it is also about other conditions that require different types of interventions. The policy of Government is to ensure that health care is not only curative, but also preventive, rehabilitative, promotive, and is accessible to all Kenyans at an affordable cost. This is the main objective of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which is a journey that has already piloted in four Counties of Machakos, Nyeri, Isiolo and Kisumu, from which we have learnt many lessons and have now applied these lessons to scale up the program.

We learnt that there is a need to strengthen Primary Health Care at the community Units, dispensaries and Health centres. This is so that health care is brought nearer to the people and to free the higher level health facilities, such as the referral hospitals to deal with more complicated cases and reduce congestion.

To improve capacity, counties have been recruiting health care workers. Kiambu County has already recruited 64 out of 95 through the Public Service Commission Youth Empowerment Programme, that cuts across 21 cadres, and 138 skilled health workers. We are still awaiting the returns from the County on the same. Another additional 100 healthcare workers in 14 cadres are expected to be recruited by the Kiambu County Public Service Board. I would like to appeal to the County, through the Governor, for this recruitment process of the remaining healthcare workers, to be expedited, so that the people of Kiambu can benefit from these services.

At the community Level, 1,171 out of 1,200 healthcare workers have been sensitized on UHC, which includes COVID -19. All this is to boost the County's health work force.

Fellow Kenyans,

We are working towards ensuring that the County has essential medicines in its health facilities. Therefore, under UHC, Kiambu County has been allocated Kshs. 216

million this financial year, and the medicines are undergoing final stages for dispatch. I encourage the County to place its next order, and to set up the Medicine Therapeutic Committee, which will help in quantifying the needs for the future. The allocations are to supplement the County's budget on medicines. I encourage the County to spend its budget on essential medicines as well.

We are also planning to place basic equipment in the facilities in the next financial year, so that basic tests, as well as emergency care for pregnant women can be performed. I want to thank the Kiambu County Government for all the efforts it has put into the UHC so far.

We have learnt from the Countries that have implemented UHC successfully that their economies have grown, their citizens are living longer and have a good quality of life. In Kenya, we can achieve this with the plans we are putting in place, which require individual cooperation. We should not wait to get sick, but instead

engage in activities that promote health, such as healthy eating, exercising and adopting appropriate health seeking behaviour.

Further, the Government's agenda is to make health care more affordable for the common mwananchi. To achieve this, we have embarked on reforming the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), so that it can serve Kenyans better. I want to appeal to Kenyans to register with the Fund and also diligently contribute monthly.

At the same time, we continue to encourage our people to visit our health facilities for treatment of other ailments, as our medical institutions are operating normally. We have actually set up special health facilities to deal with Coronavirus, and therefore there is no need to be afraid that one will contract the virus.

As I told you yesterday, the more we test, the higher the positive cases. Today, we have recorded a high of **147** people testing positive out of the **2,831** samples tested. This now brings to **1,618** the number of people who have

so far tested positive for the disease in the country. The cumulative tests conducted so far is **70, 172**. In terms of age distribution, the youngest is a one **(1)** year old infant, while the oldest is **87** years.

These cases are spread as follows; Nairobi **(90)**, Mombasa **(41)**, Kiambu **(3)**, Busia **(3)**, Nyeri **(2)**, Uasin Gishu **(2)**, while Kajiado, Kilifi, Embu, Homa Bay, Muranga and Machakos have one case each.

The distribution of cases by sub counties; In Nairobi; Kibra **(35)**, Langata **(15)**, Makadara **(9)**, Westlands **(8)**, Embakasi Central **(6)**, Embakasi West **(5)**, Kasarani **(4)**, Kamukunji **(2)**, Dagoretti North **(2)**, Starehe **(2)**, Roysambu **(1)** and Mathare **(1)**.

In Mombasa, the forty-one **(41)** cases are from; Jomvu **(10)**, Mvita **(10)**, Changamwe **(6)**, Kisauni **(5)**, Likoni **(5)** and Nyali **(5)**. In Kiambu, the three cases are from Kiambu Town **(1)**, Thika **(1)** and Kikuyu **(1)**. In Busia, the three cases are all from the Point of Entry.

In Nyeri, the two cases are from Nyeri town. In Uasin Gishu, the two cases (**2**) are from Turbo. In Kajiado, the one case is from Kajiado North, while in Embu, the case is from Manyatta. In Homa Bay, the one case is from Rangwe. In Murang'a the case is from Makuyu while in Machakos, the case is from Athi River. Nyeri, Embu and Murang'a, are the latest Counties to record COVID-19 cases.

All of them **147** cases are Kenyans, out which **87** are males and **60** females.

Even with the rising numbers, I am glad to inform you that today we have discharged (**13**) patients who have recovered from the disease. Our total number of recoveries now stands at **421**. I thank our healthcare workers for the hard work.

On a sad note, we have today lost another three (**3**) patients to the disease, one in Thika, and two others in Mombasa. Both of them had underlying conditions. I want to pass my sincere condolences to the families and

friends of the departed. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

As I conclude, I want to inform you that today May 28th, is World Menstrual Hygiene Day. To celebrate the day whose theme is **"it's time for action,"** we are launching our ***Menstrual Hygiene Policy & Strategy 2019-2024***. This policy is meant to create an enabling environment for implementation of menstrual hygiene and management interventions in Kenya. It will also ensure women and girls have access to safe and hygienic products.

I am delighted to inform you that Kenya is the first Nation, to develop a stand-alone MH Policy through a multi-stakeholder consultative and inclusive process. We acknowledge the contribution of the stakeholders, in developing this policy & strategy and in advancing the menstrual health and hygiene agenda in Kenya.

Finally, I want to thank Kiambu Governor Dr. James Nyoro, and all the people of Kiambu for their efforts in

combating this disease. Due to your proximity to Nairobi, which is the most affected county, the number of infections would have been higher. However, the collaboration between the people of Kiambu and the County Government have managed to limit the spread of infections. I must caution that Kiambu, being the fourth County in terms of infections, you must never let your guard down.

I thank you.

**SEN. MUTAHI KAGWE, EGH,
CABINET SECRETARY.**