



**NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE**  
**ON CORONAVIRUS**

**UPDATE ON COVID-19 IN THE COUNTRY AND**  
**RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT MARCH 31, 2021**

**DAY: 380**

**BRIEF NO: 372**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**Good afternoon members of the press and welcome to our daily briefing on the status of Coronavirus in the country.**

**Fellow Kenyans,**

The situation in the country with regard to the Coronavirus disease is not getting any better. Local transmissions continue to be reported at an alarming rate, and therefore

we want to appeal to all kenyans to take extra pre-caution to protect themselves, their families as well as their loved ones.

As of today Nairobi, which has become the epicentre of this virus continues to lead with the number of cases that have been reported. By yesterday the County had recorded a total of **61,851** cases followed by Mombasa with **9,915** cases and Kiambu comes in third with **8,829** cases. Kajiado which is at number four has **3,863** cases while Wajir has the least number of Covid-19 cases at **92** followed by Tana River which has **106** cases and Mandera with **138** cases.

**130,052** which is about **98** per cent of the **132,635** confirmed cases, are all local transmissions. This is evidently clear that the virus is rapidly spreading amongst us, in our estates, villages, in our towns and wherever people are in most parts of this country. However there is a good account coming from Wajir where we have recorded the least cases of less than 100. We are appealing to the people of the great County of Wajir to continue adhering

strictly to the containment measures we have advised. The same case applies to all our people in other counties to equally adhere to the containment measures.

### **Fellow Kenyans,**

This disease is real. The statistics I have just given you are a sure testimony of the extent of the disease in the country. I know we all now know a person or persons who have suffered from the disease, some, sadly, have lost their relatives and in some instances, many relatives at the same time. These are figures of real people, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, neighbours and friends. I have been forced to restate this because I was deeply disturbed recently when I watched a clip of a story in one of the Tv stations where an old man who was being interviewed said there was no such thing as Covid-19 because he had not seen it. This is quite disturbing in this day and age. And I appeal to every Kenyan to take up this matter personally and educate those still living in denial that this disease is

not only real but deadly and devastating. It has claimed the lives of people in all status, politicians, army generals, journalists, health workers who include doctors and nurses, to even the ordinary people.

### **Fellow Kenyans,**

We are here today to make a passionate appeal to you wherever you are and in whatever you do to please be considerate of yourself and those you love. We know the government has put stringent measures in a bid to further curtail the spread of this Virus. This has been done in the interest of public health. As you know His Excellency the President Uhuru Kenyatta, upon advice from our medical experts, also outlined fresh measures to deal with this disease. The measures are meant to protect you, your neighbour, your family and the Kenyan people in general. We are aware the measures have come with a heavy price for some. Many businesses are suffering. Our way of life has again been altered. However, the bigger picture is that they are meant to save the lives of the majority of Kenyans.

If you have followed our briefings, apart from the number of cases we have been reporting, the number of fatalities has equally shot up. As of yesterday, we had lost a total of **2,147** people from the disease. And the number keeps going up. Things therefore cannot be left the same.

### **Fellow Kenyans,**

As you are all aware, we have already launched the vaccination exercise after we received our consignment of **1.12** million doses. We targeted for vaccination in the first phase our health workers and those in the frontline such as our security personnel, police, military as well as teachers. This is still the case. And so far we have been able to vaccinate **67,605** health workers, **11,597** security officers and **19, 094** teachers. The most interesting thing is that there is a lot of enthusiasm from other members of the public who do not fall in this category for this phase who have come out to get the jab. And as of today, we have vaccinated another **63, 475** in this category.

Therefore, the total number of those so far vaccinated is **161,771**.

I am therefore making a special appeal to our Health workers, security officers and teachers who have not come out to be vaccinated to do so immediately.

### **Fellow Kenyans,**

On the issue of Sputnik V vaccine, it's indeed true that it has received Emergency Use Authorisation by our Pharmacy and Poisons Board. Infact, it has received emergency use authorisation from over 65 countries and is in use in most of these countries already. But in our case, we have set as a criteria and as an additional requirement, Emergency Use Authorisation by the World Health Organization which has not yet been granted. However clinical and quality data reviews are ongoing at WHO.

We have learnt from various sources that the vaccine is already being administered to people in the country. I wish to confirm that a meeting has been held with distributors during which the need for strict adherence to regulatory guidelines given under Emergency Use Authorisation was stressed. Emergency use authorization generally places conditions on distributors of commodities to do which include restrictions on advertising and marketing as well as responsibilities on reporting to the regulating agencies, in our case, to PPB. Emergency use Authorization also places a requirement on distributors and vaccinators to report more robustly to the regulating agencies on all their activities to enable better monitoring of any emerging concerns or adverse events after immunization. The Ministry will therefore be monitoring the situation with regard to the introduction of this vaccine to the market should there be need for any further action it will be taken as may be necessary. Besides, distributors have been told to ensure that vaccination is undertaken in approved vaccination posts. Approvals for such is usually given by the

