



## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021

### PRESS STATEMENT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

In the last one month, we have witnessed an exponential rise in COVID-19 infections and deaths which has been the highest since the first reported COVID-19 case in the Country. The Council of Governors condoles with the affected families and our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

The unprecedented pandemic necessitated the following drastic measures:-

**One**, the lockdown in the following five (5) Counties:-

- i. Nairobi;
- ii. Nakuru;
- iii. Kiambu;
- iv. Kajiado; and
- v. Machakos

**Two**, strict restriction of movement in and out of the zoned area.

**Three**, a no nonsense enforcement of adherence of the COVID-19 protocols.

**Four**, immediate punishment in form of cleaning up of the public facilities regardless of the offenders' status in the society.

## **SUPPORT OF THE TOUGH COMPLIANCE MEASURES**

The Council of Governors supports the tough compliance measures for the following reasons:-

**First**, it is one of the key responsibilities of the National and County Governments to protect and save the lives of its citizens.

It is for this reason that the President pronounced tough measures on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 in order to protect Kenyans from sickness or death arising from the vicious COVID-19 3<sup>rd</sup> wave.

**Secondly**, Kenya's health facilities especially the Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and shortage of oxygen plants is a major concern hence the need to restrict movement in and out of the zoned area to reduce the spread of the virus.

**Thirdly**, despite the lockdown in the zoned area, residents within the zoned area can move freely and continue engaging in catering for their livelihoods while observing the Ministry of Health protocols.

***Fellow Kenyans,***

### **THE WAY FORWARD**

Now that we are experiencing a more challenging situation regarding a new contagious COVID-19 variant, we must team up:-

- The citizens;
- The County Governments; and
- The National Government

In order to overcome the new variant instead of casting asperations and criticism.

The following are some of the measures we must take in order to flatten the curve:-

**One**, as the County Governments we have commenced in earnest to enforce implementation of infection prevention control measures in markets as directed by the President during the 15<sup>th</sup> Address on the coronavirus pandemic on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

**Two**, we will continue to follow through with the National campaign on **“NO MASK, NO SERVICE”, “BILA BARAKOA, HAKUNA HUDUMA”**.

**Three**, the CoG and the Ministry of Health have formed a joint Intergovernmental Health Committee which will be coordinating COVID-19 issues which will cover among other things:-

- i. Financial support by our development partners
- ii. Harmonizing various donations of medical equipment and other related donations in order to ensure they are compatible and they have readily available and affordable spare parts.
- iii. Ensure harmonized training of health officials. The Co-Chair of the joint intergovernmental health committee will be CoG Health committee Chairman and MoH Cabinet Secretary.

**Four**, the CoG has tasked their Finance committee Chairman with the assistance of a few Governors to engage the National Treasury with a view of ensuring the following:-

a) The National Treasury makes available the 4.6 Billion availed by the World Bank previously earmarked for the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP) for use by the Counties on containing COVID-19 3<sup>rd</sup> wave.

b) The National Treasury releases our share of allocation on time without delays as it has been the case and as it is still the case at the time of this press statement.

## Conclusion

While we note that the COVID-19 vaccination is currently being rolled out across the 47 Counties, it is expected that the vaccine programme will slow down the rate of infection.

However, it is worth noting that the COVID-19 vaccine does not guarantee full protection against the virus.

Therefore, extra care is needed for both the vaccinated and unvaccinated. In this regard, every individual is required to:-

- Continue wearing the masks properly by covering the nose and mouth;
- Maintain social distance;
- Wash hands regularly with soap and running water; and
- Sanitize.

The success towards the fight against the virus solely depends on individual adherence to the health protocols issued by the Ministry of Health which should be implemented without compromise.

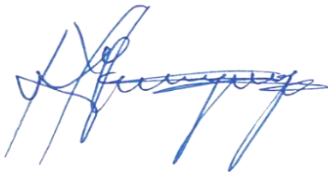
### **MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO THE LATE HON. PAUL KOINANGE**

On another note, allow me to take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt condolences to the Family, Friends, Relatives, the National Assembly and the people of Kiambaa Constituency, Kiambu County for the passing on of the Member of Parliament, Hon. Paul Koinange.

He will be remembered as a renowned peace builder and supporter of national unity in the Country through his Chairmanship of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Administration and National Security where he influenced policy and legislation to advance the peace building agenda.

May his Soul rest in eternal Peace.

**Signed:**



**H. E. Hon. Martin Nyaga Wambora, EGH**  
**Chairman, Council of Governors**