



## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

### PRESS STATEMENT ON COUNTY GOVERNMENTS RESPONSE MEASURES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

*Fellow Kenyans,*

*Members of the Press,*

In the last two weeks we have witnessed the number of COVID-19 positive cases fluctuate. The current positivity rate stands at **7.5%** from a sample size of **6,244** individuals tested. This seems to be much lower than what has been reported in the previous weeks and may cause complacency among members of the public. The COVID-19 virus is still here with us and therefore we must all remain vigilant and aware of the severe effects of the COVID-19 variant in the Country.

We further note that according to the Ministry of Health projections, it is expected that the country will face another resurgence in the number of infections in the month of July, a trend that was also reported last year in the same period.

Both levels of Government remain committed in the fight against COVID-19. For the measures put in place to achieve desired results, members of public have to also do their part by strictly complying with the set health guidelines.

In the last one week, **thirty-nine (39)** County Governments have addressed themselves to the following critical issues: -

## 1. Bed capacity

The bed capacity is as follows: -

- **Isolation beds** – Last week, the total number of available beds in isolation centres were **7,792**. This number has increased by **171** as a result of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 infection, bringing the total number of available beds to **7,963**;
- **ICU beds** – Last week, the total number of available beds in the ICU was **342**. This number has increased by **31** bringing the total number of available beds to **373**; a marked decrease in the number of admissions in ICU;
- **HDU beds** - Last week, the total number of available beds in the HDU facilities was **151**. This number has increased by **15** bringing the total number of available beds to **166**. Another marked decrease in the number of admissions in HDU.

## 2. COVID-19 Vaccination

Cumulatively in **47 Counties**, a total of **933,826 doses** have been administered as follows: -

- Healthcare workers – **162,475**
- Security – **79,376**
- Teachers – **146,830**
- Above 58- **284,681**
- Others – **261,700**

We note that the demand for the COVID-19 vaccine has increased over the week with more uptake by healthcare workers and individuals above the age of 58. We encourage Counties to ensure utilization of the remaining vaccines by the end of this month as we await the phase 2 vaccination roll-out.

## 3. Home-based care

Last week we reported that there were **3,386** patients under home-based isolation care across 39 Counties. This week this number reduced to **2,545** as a result of an increase in patient recovery. We urge asymptomatic patients to continue working with the

Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) in the implementation of the home-based guidelines which have been effective thus far.

#### **4. Management of Drought**

In view of the impending drought in some parts of the country, the following ASAL Counties- **Marsabit, Turkana, Wajir and Mandera**- which were severely affected, have distributed **230,000 bags** of food items. Additionally, they have carried out water trucking in **435 sites** targeting **790,000 households** of the affected population.

Further, to respond to the current crisis, these Counties have continued to utilize the County Food Security war rooms to monitor the situation.

We urge the Ministry of Devolution and ASALs as well as Development Partners to support Counties to ensure provision of timely humanitarian assistance and the required drought response action in order to save lives and livelihoods.

#### **Challenges**

Whereas Counties are making strides towards combating the pandemic, we are experiencing the following challenges: -

##### **1. Testing of COVID-19 in Counties**

Out of the **39** County Governments that submitted data, only **31** are able to test either by RDT or PCR Tests. The lack of testing kits continues to compromise mass testing.

We call upon the Ministry of Health to expedite provision of testing kits and increase testing centers to ensure proper documentation of the magnitude and spread of the disease. This will enable Counties enhance their response measures and curb the spread of the virus.

##### **2. Disbursement of County Equitable Share of revenue**

The National Treasury has so far disbursed a total of **Ksh.8.8 Billion** to County Governments. The current outstanding

amount owed to County Governments is **Ksh. 82 Billion** as follows:-

- **Ksh 3.9 Billion** owed to Nairobi City County as arrears for the month of February
- **Ksh 25 Billion** owed to 47 Counties for the month of March
- **Ksh 28 Billion** owed to 47 Counties for the month of April
- **Ksh 25 Billion** owed to 47 Counties for the month of May

It is one month to the end of the Financial Year and County Governments are yet to receive their full disbursement of the equitable share. This has continued to derail response measures towards the pandemic, drought and floods in various parts of the country and service delivery to Kenyans.

We therefore call upon the National Treasury to fast-track the release of funds to Counties.

### 3. Floods

Sections of the population continue to suffer from the great havoc caused by the ongoing floods. Heavy rains witnessed in some Counties such as:- **Nairobi, Machakos, Kajiado, Siaya, Kiambu, Kisumu, Busia, Migori and Tana River.**

This has led to displacement of people in these areas and disruption of livelihoods.

In informal settlements such as Kibra, people have been rendered homeless and such populations remain vulnerable to disease outbreaks owing to poor drainage and poor sanitation

We appeal to well-wishers to provide direct support to the affected Counties.

### 4. Re-opening of Schools

Since the reopening of schools, County Governments have continued to put in place measures to safeguard the health of all learners and teachers in ECDE and VTC centres. However, Counties are experiencing the following challenges;

- Lack of age-appropriate facemasks for ECDE learners;
- Inadequate facemasks for teachers and support staff;
- Inadequate handwashing stations in ECDE and VTCs.
- Insufficient disinfectants to ensure frequent and consistent fumigation of common areas and learning stations to prevent the spread of the virus.

We call upon the Ministry of Education to liaise with the MOH and Development Partners to provide adequate PPEs and sanitation materials to enhance the safety of learners and teachers.

## **Conclusion**

As we conclude, the Council of Governors would like to express its discontentment in the manner in which the Senate has carried out the impeachment of the Wajir Governor His Excellency Amb. Mohamed Abdi Mohamud.

The Council strongly faults the whole process on the following grounds;

1. Violation of court orders that barred both the county assembly and the Senate from debating the impeachment motion.
2. Deliberate failure by the committee to consider the governor's exonerating evidence on health as captured by the Nation survey Report on health published in May 2019.
3. The Senate lowering the standard of proof and the threshold on impeachment matters and thus exposing the Counties to political upheavals
4. Failure to follow the provisions of Assumptions of office of a Governor Act resulting into a hurriedly swearing in of DG.
5. Senate failing to have set standards of what amounts to gross violations of the Constitution. For example in the Kirinyaga case, the Senate acquitted the governor who has been charged of similar violations.

On the face of it, the impeachment process appears to be political witch hunt, a vice that should not be allowed to disrupt governance.

In this regard, we shall hold a full Council meeting on **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021** to deliberate on this matter and issue a comprehensive statement on the same.

Asanteni Sana!

**Signed**

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