



## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

### PRESS STATEMENT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

In the press statement issued last week, the COVID-19 positivity rate in the Country was at 15.1%. Today, the positivity rate stands at 11.8% from a sample size of 4,134 individuals tested. We note that community transmissions have started increasing and other Counties out of the zoned area are experiencing a surge in COVID-19 infections. As County Governments, we will strive to ensure strict adherence of health protocols by all Counties especially those outside the zoned area.

We continue to urge members of the public to work collaboratively with the National and County Governments towards the fight against COVID-19.

In the last one week, County Governments have addressed themselves to the following critical issues:-

#### 1. Status of bed capacity in 32 Counties

The bed capacity in 32 Counties is as follows:-

- There is a total of **7,346 beds** in 390 isolation centers out of which **5,912 beds** are available for patients;
- There are a total of **390 beds** in the ICU out of which **228 beds** are available for new patients; and
- There are a total of **156 beds** in the HDU out of which **69 beds** are available for new patients.

#### 2. COVID-19 Vaccination

Cumulatively in 32 Counties, a total of **489,722 doses** have been received out of which **303,163 doses** have been administered as follows:-

- Healthcare workers – **87,353**
- Security – **14,813**
- Teachers – **30,701**
- Others – **170,296**

County Governments are working towards ensuring that the targeted population in phase 1 are vaccinated within the stipulated timeframe. Further, we urge the Ministry of Health to increase the number of doses distributed in order to meet the target and stem the spread of the virus.

### 3. Testing and Home-Based Care

Out of **83,766 tests** carried out in 32 Counties, **9,694** tested positive. Of this number, **5,319** positive cases are under home-based care while **1,434** are in isolation facilities across 32 Counties. A total of **28,057** have recovered from COVID -19.

### 4. Food Security

In line with the implementation of the County COVID-19 Social Economic Reengineering Recovery Strategy which seeks to facilitate access to quality and affordable inputs including certified seedlings, County Governments have distributed a total of **2,242,243** of assorted high value fruit tree seedlings and **77 tonnes** of crop and pasture seeds. This will increase agricultural productivity and income of farmers during this period.

Further, County Governments have continued to facilitate transportation of food and other essential commodities across Counties. All markets are operational with water and hand washing points provided.

### 6. Water Sector

Provision of water is integral towards the fight against COVID-19. However, water utilities have continued to accrue operational bills since the first wave of COVID-19 in the Country. This has led to a decline in revenue which has affected service delivery.

To avert the situation, twenty six (26) water service providers have so far received liquidity support from the World Bank which will go towards offsetting accrued electricity bills. We urge the World Bank to fast-track their support towards the remaining water service providers in order to ensure uninterrupted service delivery.

## Challenges

### 1. Disbursement of County Equitable Share of revenue

In the last one week, the National Treasury has disbursed a total of **Kshs. 19.8 Billion** to County Governments. The current outstanding amount owed to County Governments is **Kshs. 66 Billion** as follows:-

- **Ksh 2.6 Billion** owed to Nairobi City County for the month of December
- **Ksh 12 Billion** owed to 21 Counties for the month of January
- **Ksh 26 Billion** owed to 47 Counties for the month of February
- **Ksh 25 Billion** owed to 47 Counties for the month of March

We urge the National Treasury to fast-track the release of the outstanding amounts to enable County Governments to undertake County operations and progressively settle the pending Bills.

### 2. Tourism Sector

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector has been substantial which has drastically affected tourism facilities across the Counties. County Governments have now embarked on developing products specifically tailored to enhance domestic tourism which is less susceptible to economic shocks.

The tourism products being developed are premised to be affordable and will maximize domestic tourist utilities. Regional blocs are now jointly marketing tourist attractions.

### 3. Floods in the Counties

Following an advisory from the meteorological department issued on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 heavy rains are expected to intensify particularly

in the Western region, Nyanza, Rift Valley and Tana River County. In this regard, we urge all members of the public living in flood prone areas to move to safer grounds. County Governments have already mapped out the vulnerable individuals and they will work closely with other partners in supporting families that have been displaced.

#### **4. Depleted Vaccines**

Since the leadership of both the national and county governments took the vaccine publicly, the confidence of the citizens was enhanced and there is a serious demand for the vaccine now. Many county governments have depleted resources of what they had in store. This is a good sign but also a challenge since we have a shortage at the counties, in the country and globally.

#### **5. Special Audit Report on use of COVID Funds by Counties**

County Governments have not received the reports being discussed in the media relating to Audit of utilization of COVID Funds by Counties. We urge the media to be patient and allow the Counties to receive the reports from the office of the Auditor General, study them then respond to any audit queries if any. Counties are being condemned unheard and even without being told what they did that is wrong if at all.

### **Conclusion**

In the recent past, COVID-19 has continued to claim the lives of our families and loved ones as seen in the daily situational reports by the Ministry of Health. To stop this trend, we have to strive to flatten the curve which can only be achieved through adherence of the health protocols.

I therefore urge every individual to exercise extra caution to protect themselves and the lives of others in order to minimize the spread of the virus and reduce fatalities.

Asanteni Sana!

**Signed**

**H.E Hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, EGH**  
**Chairman Health Committee, Council of Governors**