



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE
ON CORONAVIRUS
UPDATE OF CORONAVIRUS IN THE COUNTRY
AND RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT 22nd May 2020

Day: 71

Brief No: 65

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

The National Government takes this opportunity to recognize the great work that the County Governments are doing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As I have repeatedly said, this is a disease that cannot be tackled by one level of Government. This fight requires the entire Government and the whole society approach. The collaboration and cooperation between the two levels of Government and the people of Kenya, has contributed

to the gains we have made in this fight. The National Government will continue to work closely with the County Governments and other agencies to strengthen the country's capacity to mitigate COVID-19 threat.

Today's visit to Machakos County is part of an elaborate plan being implemented by my Ministry to inspect the level of preparedness at the County level, and to ascertain the type of support needed. This is important in helping the Ministry of Health to provide support based on the needs per county. Similar visits have been made to Siaya and Kajiado Counties, and will continue until all the counties are covered.

When we started this fight against Coronavirus, our initial focus was on capacity building at various levels. Emphasis was placed on escalating human resources as well as infrastructural capacities. In collaboration with County Governments, the Ministry rolled out a training of trainers program and, to date, at least 7 healthcare workers per County have been trained. These individuals have since then cascaded the training to other personnel

within the counties. Today, we can proudly say that, over 11,000 healthcare workers across all the counties have been trained.

Besides capacity building, the Ministry of Health is committed to improving working conditions of healthcare workers, and will ensure that their safety at workplace is top priority. We are aware that our healthcare workers sometimes work under very difficult environment, where they are at the risk of contracting diseases from the patients they manage. This is a major concern to the Ministry. To mitigate this, the Ministry continues to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to various health facilities for use by our health workers. The good news is that we are no longer going to import the PPEs any more. This disease has taught our people to be innovative. Our local manufacturers are now able to produce better and quality health products. The issue of shortage will not arise any more.

Additionally, the National Government has committed to support County Governments recruit 5,000 community

support workers in order to enhance their human resource capacity. This process is at different stages of completion. Once finalised, the counties will have an additional 5,000 work force at the expense of the National Government. I am happy to note that Machakos County is among the few counties that have completed this process. I am therefore urging the other counties that have not done so to expedite this process.

The restrictions have largely contributed to the low numbers in other counties like Machakos. This is however not to say that Machakos and the other counties are completely safe. For instance, Machakos to date has recorded three (3) cases. To keep the numbers in these counties low, the residents are urged to continue adhering to the containment measures and also exercise the *Nyumba Kumi* initiative of community policing.

We have noted with concern that some of our people are reluctant to seek health care services in our health facilities for fear of contracting COVID-19. I want to inform our people that all services are continuing as

normal in all our health facilities, and I particularly want to appeal to mothers to seek maternal child and immunization services for the well-being of our young ones. We have designated COVID-19 specific hospitals in all counties while the remaining facilities will continue to provide other health care services separately and therefore, there should be no fear whatsoever.

Regarding our COVID-19 situation, we have in the last 24 hours tested **2,567** samples, out of which **52** people have tested positive for Covid-19 Disease. This now brings to **1,161** the number of people who have so far tested positive for the disease in the country. The cumulative tests conducted so far is **55, 074**.

These cases are spread as follows; Nairobi (**23**), Mombasa (**7**), Busia (**7**), Kwale (**5**), Kajiado (**4**), Nakuru (**2**), Kiambu (**1**), Taita Taveta (**1**), Kilifi (**1**), Trans Nzoia (**1**).

The distribution of cases by sub counties; In Nairobi; Kibra (**8**), Langata (**3**), Kamukunji (**2**), Dagoretti North (**2**), Embakasi East (**2**), Embakasi South (**1**), Embakasi West (**1**) Kasarani (**1**), Starehe (**1**), Roysambu (**1**) and mandatory quarantine (**1**).

In Mombasa, the seven (**7**) cases are from; Jomvu (**4**), Mvita (**2**) and Nyali (**1**). In Busia, the seven cases are from Teso South (**4**), Teso North (**2**) and Matayos (**1**). In Kwale, all the five (**5**) cases are from Msambweni. The cases in Kajiado are from; Kajiado Central (**2**), Kajiado West (**1**) and Loitokitok (**1**). In Nakuru, the cases are from Naivasha (**1**) and Rongai (**1**). The following areas have one (**1**) case each, Kiambu Town, Rabai in Kilifi, Trans Nzoia East, and Taita Taveta, whose case is a truck driver.

Out of today's positive cases, **48** are Kenyans while two (**2**) each are Uganda and Somali Nationals. In terms of gender, **37** are males and **15** females.

We have today discharged another five **(5)** patients who have recovered from the disease, bringing the total number of those who have recovered to **380**.

I am also happy to inform you that we have not lost any patient in the last one week. Our case fatality still remains at **50**.

This could not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our healthcare workers. I salute them.

Finally, I want to thank Machakos Governor, Dr Alfred Mutua, and all the people of Machakos for the work they are doing in this fight. It is not by chance that Machakos has such fewer cases. It is due to hard work and the cooperation between the County Government and the residents.

I also want to thank Kenyans for their understanding and support as we continue to tackle this enemy. I appeal for

vigilance and urge everyone to strictly observe the containment measures that we have put in place.

I thank you.

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