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**RESPONDING TO COVID-19 CRISIS:
PERSPECTIVES FROM EDUCATION,
TRADE, AND THE POLICY AND
LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT IN
KENYA**

POLICY *Monitor*

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To provide quality public policy advice to the Government of Kenya by conducting objective research and analysis and through capacity building in order to contribute to the achievement of national development goals

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Editorial

Welcome to the KIPPRA Policy Monitor, the October-December 2020 Issue. The theme of this Issue is “Responding to COVID-19 Crisis: Perspectives from the Education, Trade, and Policy and Legislative Environment in Kenya”. This is a continuation of our discussions on COVID-19, which has had significant implications on various sectors of the economy. This Issue features three key articles, namely: Operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Opportunities and challenges; Assessing effectiveness of e-learning programmes during the COVID-19 era; and Stock taking on measures taken to contain COVID-19 and its effects.

As always, the Policy Monitor discusses recent economic developments, which show an anticipated rebound of economic activities following the relaxation of containment measures in the re-opening of the economy.

Moreover, this Issue covers various activities and events undertaken by the Institute during the quarter. The key highlights include a two-day researchers’ workshop organized by KIPPRA; Induction of new board members; Graduation of the 17th Cohort of the KIPPRA Young Professionals programme; launch

of the County COVID-19 socio-economic re-engineering recovery strategy; County on-job-support workshops on children, women, youth, PWDs and gender-sensitive planning and budgeting; commemoration of the World AIDS Day; and KIPPRA participation in various think tanks’ summits.

Finally, the Policy Monitor provides key highlights of policy news at domestic, regional and international levels; and legislative developments at the National Assembly and the Senate, and concludes with upcoming KIPPRA events.

On behalf of the KIPPRA fraternity, we hope you will be informed as you read this edition.

Happy 2021!

Recent Economic Developments

By Benson Kiriga, Hellen Chemnyongoi, Daniel Omanyo, and James Ochieng'

This article analyzes the country's recent economic developments with a focus on four key areas: the growth of economic activities, monetary and financial policy, fiscal developments, and the external sector.

Growth of economic activities

A rebound of economic activity was expected in the fourth quarter (October-December 2020) following the relaxation of containment measures on 27th September 2020 that saw the re-opening of the economy. The Private Sector Market Perception Survey conducted by the Monetary Policy Committee of Central Bank of Kenya in November 2020 showed that expectations from the banking and non-banking private sector firms for the fourth quarter were quite positive, especially for the agricultural sector which continued to enjoy good weather conditions, and for the economy in general due to the return of business confidence and resumption of international travel.

The resilience in sectors such as ICT, agriculture, and recovery in manufacturing and exports is expected to counterbalance the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic on services sectors including education, transport and accommodation. Restaurant and flower businesses that had largely closed or scaled down were able to resume business operations in the fourth quarter. The volume of flower exports normalized due to the impetus boosted by the marked growth of 4.8 per cent between July and October 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. However, slow recovery in sectors such as transport and tourism, and a potential COVID-19 second wave remained a risk to normalization of economic activity.

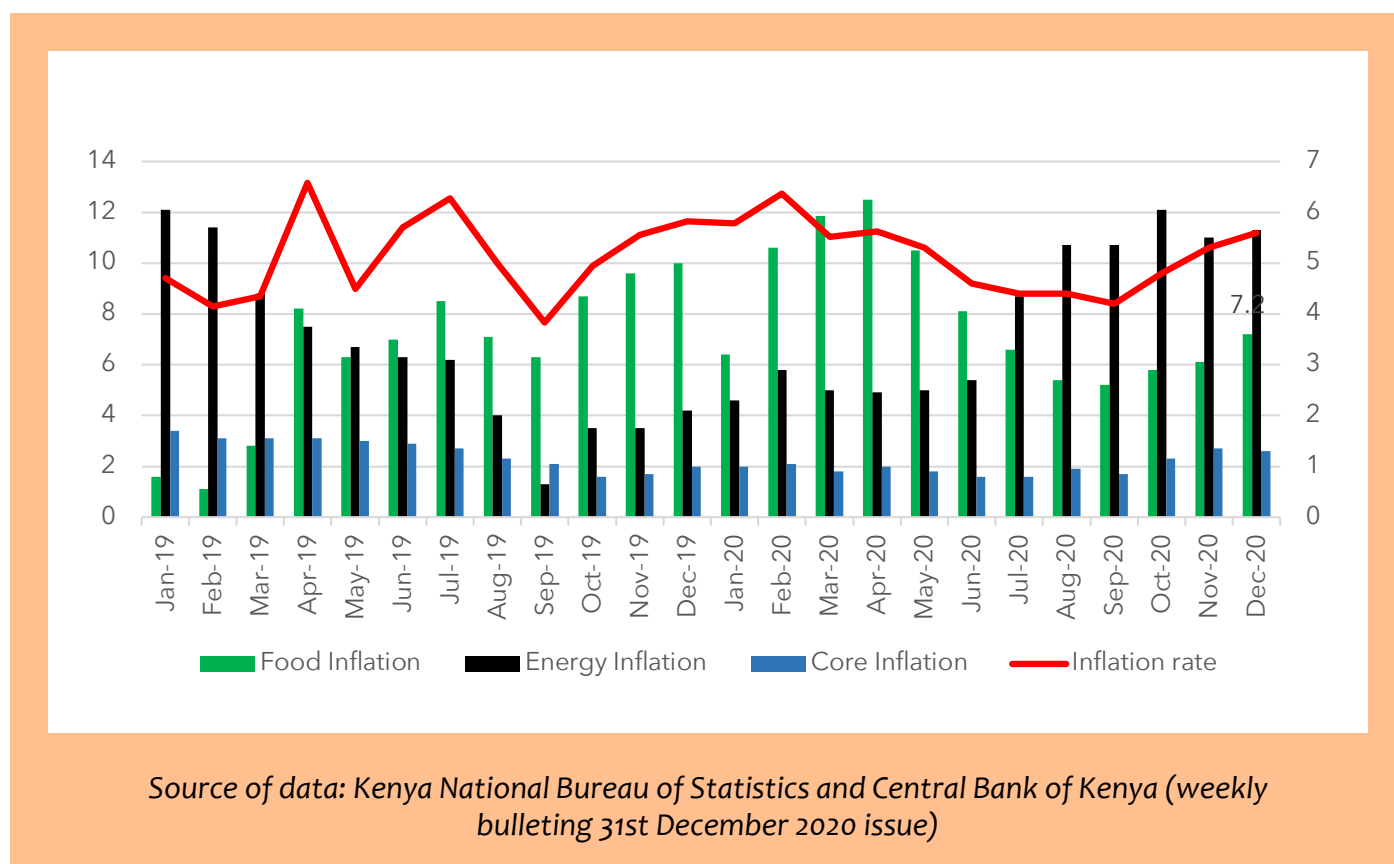
Disruptions to economic activity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic saw a rise in unemployment especially with businesses closing and reduced working hours as a result of the containment measures executed by the Government. Data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

(KNBS) Quarterly Labour Force Survey shows that there was a 5.2 per cent rise in unemployment in 2020. The demographic analysis shows that individuals aged between 20 and 29 years suffered the heaviest losses in employment, accounting for approximately 22.2 per cent of unemployed persons.

The overall inflation rate for October to December 2020 averaged 5.2 per cent compared to 5.4 per cent during the same months in 2019 and 4.3 per cent in July-September Quarter 2020. The inflation during the quarter maintained an increasing trend as shown in Figure 1 largely driven by rise in food and fuel inflation owing to increasing demands (food items and travels across the country) during the festive season. Food inflation rose from 5.2 per cent in September to 5.8 per cent in October, and further to 6.1 per cent in November. In December, food inflation rose to 7.2 per cent largely driven by increase in food prices during the festive season. The overall rise in food inflation was attributed to the net effect of an increase in prices of

several food items, which outweighed decreases in prices of others. Specifically, the prices of carrots, mutton, and wheat flour increased by 0.92, 0.82, and 0.80 per cent, respectively, in October compared to September 2020 and prices of beef, wheat flour and tomatoes rose by 0.99, 0.69 and 0.66 per cent, respectively, in November compared to October 2020. During the festive season (December), the prices of spinach, oranges, kales, wheat flour(white) and carrots registered significant increases by 8.09, 6.18, 5.6, 4.75 and 4.30 per cent, respectively, compared to November 2020. Fuel inflation remained elevated, averaging 11.5 per cent in October-December quarter compared to 10.1 per cent realized during the July-September quarter, 2020. The rise led to an increase in transport index by 1.15 per cent during the same period as the country experienced a surge in travelling to various destinations over the festive period.

Figure 1: Inflation rates (January 2019 to December 2020)



Monetary and financial Policy

An accommodative monetary policy stance adopted at the beginning of the pandemic was maintained. During the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held on 26th November, the Central Bank Rate (CBR) was retained at 7.00 per cent. This is expected to support the recovery of economic activity while maintaining macroeconomic stability. The interbank rate remained stable, averaging 3.68 per cent during the quarter, which is a slight increase from an average of 2.54 per cent registered during the July-September 2020 quarter. Similarly, yields on Government securities have been stable at an average rate of 6.70 per cent during the quarter for the 91-day treasury bill. This reflected an increase of 7.37 percentage points compared to an average of 6.24 per cent attained during the July-September 2020 quarter.

The banking sector remained stable and resilient with strong liquidity and capital adequacy ratios. Growth in private sector credit stood at 7.7 per cent in October compared to an average of 7.9 per cent in the July-September 2020. This was an increase by 0.1 per cent relative to 7.6 per cent registered in September 2020. The performance was supported by a recovery in demand associated with improved economic activity following the easing of COVID-19 containment measures. Going forward, operationalization of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for the vulnerable Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) intended to de-risk lending by commercial banks is expected to increase private sector credit. The Government, through the National Treasury signed the credit guarantee scheme agreement with seven (7) participating commercial banks on 8th December 2020.

Further, there was an increased uptake of the funds intended to support lending during the quarter compared to the last quarter. The uptake of the Ksh 35.2 billion released by the lowering of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) increased by 0.6 per cent from Ksh 32.4 billion registered in the last quarter to Ksh 32.6 billion realized during the quarter. The funds were mainly used to support lending to tourism, trade, transport and communication, real estate, manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

The ratio of non-performing loans (NPLs) to gross loans remained stable during the quarter. NPLs rose in sectors such as restaurants and hotels, transport and communication, real estate, and tourism but recovery in other sectors such as trade and manufacturing helped offset the rise. Despite the rise, the banking sector remained resilient during the quarter, with the ratio of gross NPLs to gross loans being 13.6 per cent in October 2020, a similar ratio to what was realized in August 2020. Restructuring of loans amounting to Ksh 1.38 trillion was done to provide relief to borrowers during the quarter. As a result, household and personal loans amounting to Ksh 303.1 billion had the settlement period extended to cushion the citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Emergency measures such as the scrapping of transactional charges for mobile money transfers below Ksh 1,000 and transfers for bank accounts and bank wallets were retained to encourage the use of digital finance and applied till 31st December 2020. However, the suspension of the listing of negative credit information for borrowers by Credit Reference Bureaus (CRBs), which had been enforced by the CBK on 14th April 2020, expired on 30th September 2020. Subsequently, financial institutions began the assessment of all loans that were performing before 1st April 2020. This meant that financial institutions would be able to list borrowers of unregularized non-performing loans with CRBs as of the end of December 2020.

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Growth in private sector credit stood at 7.7 per cent in October compared to an average of 7.9 per cent in the July-September 2020. ”



Fiscal developments

At the closure of the first quarter of 2020/21, the cumulative amount of total revenue was Ksh 375,548.4 million compared to Ksh 421,158.9 million collected over the same period in 2019/20. This represents a 10.8 per cent decline in total revenue collection, with a slowdown in economic activity following the outbreak of COVID-19 and the relaxed tax measures to cushion the public from the ravaging economic effects of the pandemic.

The sharp decline in total revenue collection was mainly pronounced by the slowed performance of tax revenue, which declined from Ksh 371,541.8 million in the first quarter of 2019/20 to Ksh 316,774.2 million in the same quarter in 2020/21, representing Ksh 54,677.6 million decline.

All tax heads slowed compared to the same period in 2019/20, save for receipts from other income that registered an increase of 25.7 per cent as presented in Figure 3. VAT and income tax suffered

Figure 2: Performance of total revenue receipts in 2019 and 2020

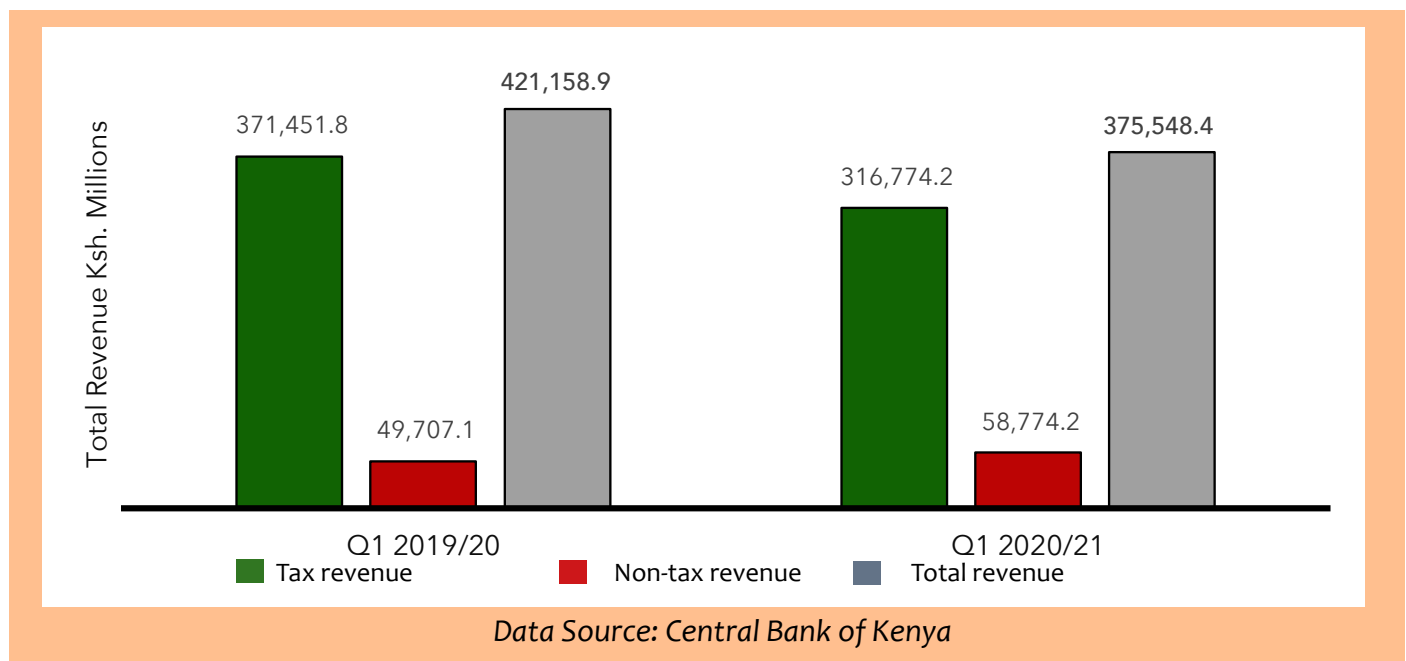
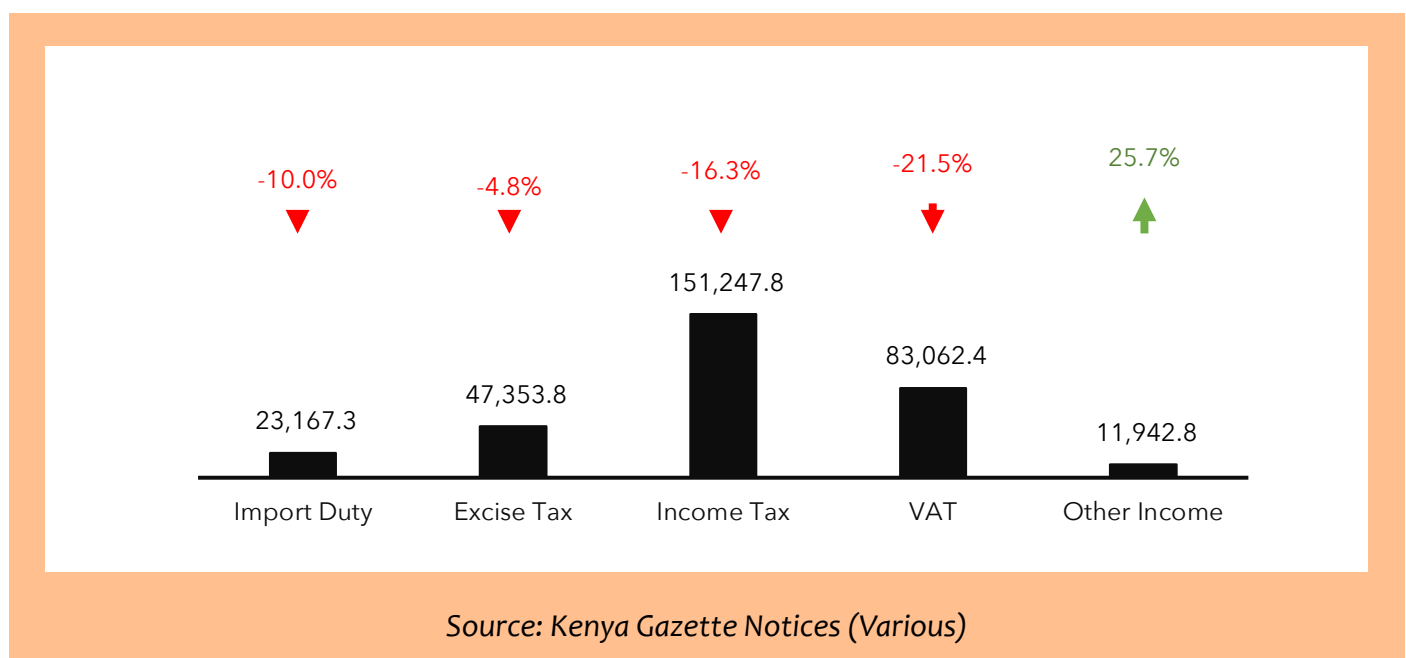


Figure 3: Actual 1st quarter tax revenues and variance from previous year



the largest decline of 21.5 per cent and 16.3 per cent, respectively. This was on account of the fiscal measures put in place by the Government during the period, which included reduction of VAT on most goods and services from 16.0 per cent to 14.0 per cent; 100 per cent tax relief for persons earning gross monthly income of up to Ksh 24,000; reduction of resident Personal Income Tax Rate (Pay-As-You-Earn) top rate from 30.0 per cent to 25.0 per cent; reduction in corporate tax from 30.0 per cent to 25.0 per cent for residents and reduction in turnover tax from 3.0 per cent to 1.0 per cent with taxable turnover thresholds increased from an income of between Ksh 1.0 million to Ksh 50.0 million for MSMEs. Additionally,

a look at revenue performance against the targets shows that all tax heads suffered shortfalls save for investment revenue. This was mainly occasioned by the pandemic situation that disrupted supply chains of good and services, resulting in reduction in trade activities thus the accompanying revenue. Similarly, tax measures to cushion workers and the massive job losses resulted into PAYE shortfalls.

The total expenditure during the period under review amounted to Ksh 515,526.8 million compared to Ksh 544,625.8 million recorded in the same period during 2019/20. The resultant slowed spending was mainly attributed to lower absorption recorded in expenditures by the National Government and below target transfers

Figure 4: Actual versus target revenue performance for 1st quarter 2020/21

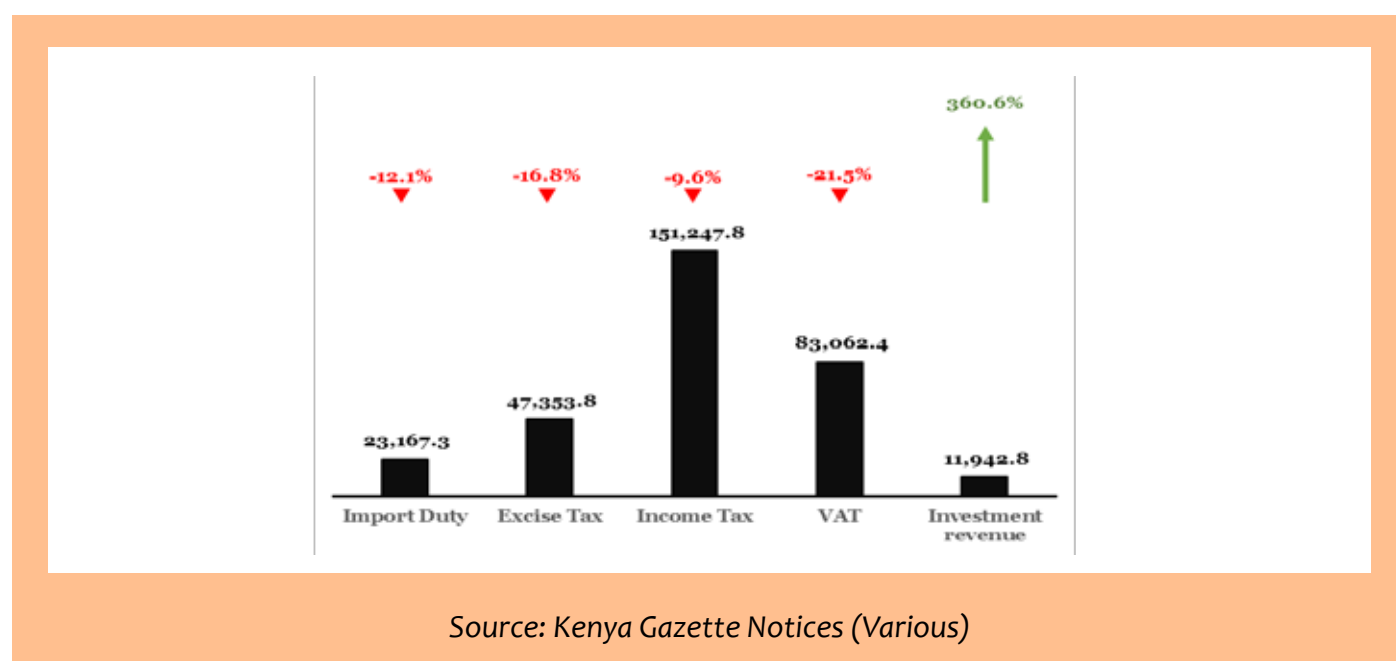


Table1: Recurrent and development expenditure 2019/20 and 2020/21 (Ksh millions)

| | Domestic Interest | Foreign Interest | Wages & Salaries | Pensions | Other | Total Recurrent | County Transfer | Development | Total expenditure |
|--------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Jul-19 | 28,746.2 | 15,116.6 | 38,340.0 | 3,146.9 | 22,892.7 | 108,242.5 | - | 4,732.1 | 112,974.7 |
| Aug-19 | 50,369.8 | 25,533.6 | 76,680.1 | 6,534.9 | 78,731.3 | 237,849.6 | - | 17,036.4 | 254,886.0 |
| Sep-19 | 76,250.0 | 34,162.9 | 109,719.5 | 26,258.6 | 144,792.4 | 391,183.3 | 57,542.1 | 95,900.5 | 544,625.8 |
| Jul-20 | 27,700.8 | 15,028.7 | 26,361.1 | 3,967.5 | 15,657.4 | 88,715.4 | 908.0 | 4,583.7 | 94,207.1 |
| Aug-20 | 56,781.0 | 30,339.0 | 75,222.2 | 13,578.9 | 75,706.2 | 251,627.5 | 28,021.6 | 54,222.4 | 333,871.5 |
| Sep-20 | 81,032.8 | 34,133.5 | 124,083.4 | 21,092.9 | 113,900.2 | 374,242.8 | 28,838.9 | 112,445.1 | 515,526.8 |

Data Source: Central Bank of Kenya

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to counties due to the prolonged deliberations in Parliament on the revenue sharing formula. Recurrent expenditure amounted to Ksh 374,242.8 million compared to Ksh 391,183.3 million in quarter one of 2019/20 (Table 1).

The under expenditure in recurrent category was mainly due to slackened expenditure on operation and maintenance, attributed to scaled down operations of the Government due to COVID-19 pandemic. Development expenditure improved from Ksh 95,900.5 million in the first quarter of 2019/20 to Ksh 112,445.1 million in 2020/21. This improvement was attributable to increased Government efforts in investing in the health sector and related sectors in a bid to improve the country's level of preparedness in the fight against the novel coronavirus. Foreign interest payments during the quarter amounted to Ksh 34,133.5 million, a decrease compared to Ksh 34,162.9 million over the same period in 2019/20. The domestic interest payments totalled Ksh 81,032.8 million, which was higher than the Ksh 76,250.0 million paid in the corresponding period in the previous financial year.

External sector

Between October 2020 and December 2020, the Kenya Shilling depreciated against three major currencies: the US Dollar, Euro, and the Sterling Pound. In October 2020, the Kenya Shilling

exchanged at an average (period average) of Ksh 108.64, Ksh 127.85 and Ksh 140.94 against the US Dollar, Euro and the Sterling Pound, respectively. This shifted to an average of Ksh 110.59, Ksh 134.33 and Ksh 148.42 against the US Dollar, Euro and the Sterling Pound, respectively, in December 2020, reflecting a depreciation rate of 1.8, 5.0 and 5.2 per cent, respectively, against the three currencies. This implies that the depreciation rate was relatively higher against the Sterling pound between October and December 2020.

Foreign exchange reserves remained within the statutory requirements. The reserves stood at US\$ 8,277.3 million (5.0 months of import cover) in October 2020 and US\$ 7,835.6 million (4.8 months of import cover) in December 2020. However, there has been a consistent decline in foreign reserves from US\$ 9,606.50 million in July 2020 to US\$ in September 2020 and further to US\$ 7,835.6 million as of December 2020. These figures translate to a depletion of the import cover from 5 months as at October 2020 to 4.8 months in December 2020.

Total diaspora remittances increased by 7.54 per cent from US\$ 754,912 million in the second quarter of 2020 to US\$ 811,799 in the third quarter of 2020. This was mainly driven by increased inflows from North America that recorded a 12.92 per cent growth in the same period. Remittances from North America make up more than 50 per cent of the total remittances, on average. During the same period, diaspora remittances from Europe grew by 10.94 per cent. However, there was a decline in remittances from the rest of the world by 4.34 per cent, from US\$ 221,556 million in the second quarter of 2020 to US\$ 211,949 million in the third quarter of 2020.

The total value of exports in Kenya increased by 17.41 per cent from Ksh 138.46 billion in the second quarter of 2020 to Ksh 162.57 billion in the third quarter of 2020. This was mainly driven by increase in the value of horticultural exports by 11.89 per cent in a similar period. The growth was also reflected in an increase in the value of domestic exports and re-exports by 13.18 and 64.30 per cent, respectively, in the same period. However, the value of coffee and tea exports dropped by 35.26 and 12.34 per cent, respectively, between the second and third quarters of 2020. The decline in the value of coffee and tea exports was as result of a decrease in the quantity of exports for the two products during the period under review.

The coffee volume sale improved in the month of September 2020 to 1,912.6 metric tonnes from a low volume of 1,310.4 in July 2020, and the trend is expected to continue in the remaining part of the year. Tea production recovered in the month of September 2020 at 43,412.7 metric tonnes

compared to 36,554.2 in July 2020. However, the two months registered the lowest production in the year 2020. The levels of coffee and tea outputs have a significant contribution to total agricultural sector output.





Operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Opportunities and Challenges

By John Karanja, Shadrack Mwatu and Paul Odhiambo

In 2013, the African Union (AU) launched Agenda 2063, themed the 'Africa We Want' in Kigali. One of the flagship projects was the establishment of an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The negotiated free trade area framework entered into force in May 2019 and was launched in July 2019. It is the largest free trade area globally, with 54 out of 55 AU member states. AfCFTA creates a market for goods and services for 1.2 billion people with an aggregate GDP of about US\$ 2.5 trillion. AfCFTA is expected to increase the current intra-African trade from 18 per cent to 50 per cent in total trade volumes by 2030.

It is intended that 90 per cent of the tariff lines will be fully liberalized once the AfCFTA is operationalized. This will also include mechanisms for dispute resolution, agreement on competition policy, investment, and intellectual property rights. The remaining 10 per cent of the tariff lines will constitute sensitive products where 7 per cent will be partially liberalized, and 3 per cent completely excluded from liberalization.

Trading under the framework was due to commence on 1st July 2020 but was postponed due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic. The postponement has had adverse impact on talks on various phases of the implementation of the agreement. Particularly, talks on phase 1 that include rules of origin and trade in services, and phase 2 which covers investment in intellectual property and competition were delayed due to the pandemic.

To ameliorate against the negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operationalization of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), mechanisms have been put in place to support the operationalization. An online platform to monitor and eliminate non-tariff barriers has, for instance, been created. Further, the African Union and the African Export-Import Bank have collaborated to develop the Pan-African Payment Settlement System (PAPSS), a platform that is expected to support payment of intra-African trades in local currency. The Afreximbank has also set

up the AfCFTA Adjustment Facility to support member countries to adjust to the new trade regime and immense losses in tariff revenue due to operationalization of the agreement. Under the facility, governments will be supported through supplemental financing, continued trade facilitation and investment programmes, and meet fiscal obligations as economies adjust to the AfCFTA reforms.

Opportunities

In 2019, the entire African market was US\$ 568.4 billion. In total, Kenya exported US\$ 2.7 billion worth of goods and services to EAC (US\$ 1.3 billion) and COMESA (US\$ 1.4 billion) in the same year. The size of the African market beyond EAC and COMESA is US\$ 565.7 billion (99.53%). Of the total African market, more than US\$ 84 billion is comprised of intra-African market with untapped export potential. If tapped, it would take the total intra-African trade to more than US\$ 231 billion. The untapped potential is domesticated in sectors that have proven to be internationally competitive and that bear good prospects for export success in other African markets. Kenyan products with the highest export potential under the AfCFTA include mineral commodities especially iron, steel, mineral fuels, mineral oils, salt, sulphur, earths and stone, plastering materials, lime and cement, bituminous substances, and products of their distillation, machinery, food products, motor vehicles and parts, plastics and rubber, services, chemical products, pharmaceutical products, sugars and sugar confectionary, tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes, and value added agricultural products especially coffee, tea, mate, spices, animal and vegetable fats and oils. Across the continent, the bulk of the untapped export market potential is concentrated in Southern Africa (US\$ 53 billion) followed by North Africa (US\$ 13.4 billion), West Africa (US\$ 9.5 billion), East Africa (US\$ 7.8 billion), and Central Africa (US\$ 840 million).

AfCFTA aims at addressing the tariff and non-tariff barriers that constrain intra-African trade. This is expected to create an enabling environment for trade within the region to

attract foreign direct investment, technology and knowledge transfer that will boost production capacity for trade development.

Out of 2,862 possible combinations of bilateral trade relationships between Africa's 55 national markets, only 29 per cent are under a form of a free trade relationship. The majority, therefore, are governed by general trade protocols or most-favoured nation rates, which are higher than under a free trade framework. The removal of tariffs on majority of goods is therefore expected to create huge opportunities for existing trade relationships to grow and new ones to materialize, leading to economic transformation. The framework is also expected to support development of regional value chains that will further boost intra-African trade that is expected to more than double in the first decade of AfCFTA's operationalization.

A single market will be created through trade liberalization and will improve trade flows, diversify export of goods and services, enhance consumer choice, and strengthen economic integration within the continent. In effect, the trade agreement will improve cross-border mobility of capital and labour and enhance investment competitiveness both nationally and continentally. The agreement further serves as an important precursor to the eventual establishment of a continental customs union.

It is also projected that the considerable tariff reduction will reduce import prices and enhance purchasing ability of consumers. Consumers will have access to a greater range of products, and more firms, especially SMEs will be able to engage in cross-border trade due to a reduction in trade costs. Consequently, there will be more welfare gains in the form of consumer surpluses in importing countries. Due to reduced import prices, which might lower the cost of imported raw materials and intermediate goods, there will be a trade creation effect associated with reduction in cost of production. The cuts in production cost will enhance the competitiveness of domestic output and facilitate the integration of member states, including Kenya, to the



continental value chains. With access to a larger market in place, firms will expand production, gain from economies of scale, and realize long-term sustainability from enhanced access to finance and technology. Through the AfCFTA, the pursuit for attainment of sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development and gender equality in the region will also be promoted.

The committed political support from African heads of states indicates that AfCFTA provides a more integrated Africa in a bid to ease movement and trade, which will contribute to strengthening African unity and allow Africans to proffer solutions to African problems. This support has resulted in the launch of single air transport by the Heads of States and Government of the AU during the 30th Ordinary Session of Assembly held in January 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to boost connectivity and cut travel costs across the continent, though the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant restrictions in both continental and global air transport has constrained its operationalization.

However, cognizant of freer intra-African mobility of goods and people, the launch of an AU passport will potentially eliminate restrictions on inter-regional travel, especially among the countries that require a visa for entry, such as Nigeria and South Africa. Countries such as Kenya and South Africa stand to benefit a lot due to their larger manufacturing bases (11% and 14% of GDP, respectively), better road networks (177,800km and 754,600km, respectively), railways (2,066km and 30,400km, respectively) and ports (31.5 million and 80 million tons annually, respectively), while small economies may encounter significant fiscal revenue shortfalls and competition to local industries.

More importantly, the AfCFTA will unlock deteriorating markets such as Kenya's and Ethiopia's, which are the two largest Eastern Africa economies. For the last three years, 2017-2019, trade volumes of Kenya-Ethiopia exports have dropped with a margin of 5 per cent and trade has remained exceedingly low

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”

despite both countries being members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). This has been attributed to the fact that Ethiopia retains a fairly protectionist tariff policy with high tariffs compared to Kenya's liberalized tariff regime.

With the operationalization of AfCFTA, it is expected that the existing impediments to cross border trade will be eased. Since the AfCFTA aspires to eliminate barriers to trade, Kenya should consider engaging other African countries to ensure non-tariff barriers are significantly reduced to unlock the market opportunities within the continent.

Challenges and possible solutions

The tariff reduction proposed through AfCFTA may result in shrinkage in Government revenue. This could affect Government capacity to invest in infrastructure, education and other social programmes that are crucial for attaining sustainable development and alleviating inequalities in developing countries. Importantly, trade liberalization on its own may not lead to poverty reduction in the absence of established financial sectors, growing education levels and robust governance structures.

It is worth noting that political and economic efforts are important in providing social security should the AfCFTA have adverse



effects such as loss of jobs, tariff revenues and livelihoods, especially in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, tariffs are a significant source of revenue for many governments and are used to protect domestic industries, which will require countries to adjust as may be necessary. For Kenya, investing in agro-value addition and providing targeted incentives to sectors producing frontier products, sectors with highest total factor productivity, and sectors with highest comparative advantage could avail options for compensation of lost tariff revenue.

Further, ownership and participation might be a major challenge in operationalization of AfCFTA beyond the commitment and political determination by the African heads of states. For local ownership and sustainability, the involvement of the private sector, banking, local manufacturing sectors, small and medium cross-border traders, academia, civil society groups and media is vital. Undertaking research on the specific opportunities that come with AfCFTA, undertaking capacity building and creating awareness through public-private partnerships could enhance operationalization of the trade framework. Indeed, consultation, awareness creation, public participation in making key policy decisions regarding intra-African trade under AfCFTA, and creating a framework that ensures the exchange of feedback between traders and government policy makers could further ensure non-tariff barriers are detected early enough before they adversely affect cross-border trade.

The harmonization of heterogeneous economies under one market will also pose a major challenge in the operationalization of AfCFTA. It is important to note that majority of African countries are distinct in development and the necessary asymmetry should be exercised while formulating and establishing regulations. It is important to ensure that concerns of the weaker economies are addressed in the agreement and that specific measures are implemented to ensure inclusiveness in accessing the AfCFTA market.

Effective operationalization of AfCFTA for a sustainable future for Kenya and the African continent as envisioned in AU's Agenda 2063 highly depends on coherent and complementary policies and strategies. At the national level, governments need to develop policies that target vulnerable groups such as women, youth and persons living with disabilities to ensure an inclusive implementation of the trade agreement. In particular, encouraging the development of inclusive trade policies and practices that support women and minority groups who still face barriers in accessing trade opportunities could prevent further marginalization.

More emphasis should be on training programmes to facilitate a smooth reallocation of labour to sectors that are more likely to grow. For Kenya, training and capacity building programmes should target manufacturing sectors, especially textiles and apparel. More importantly, Kenya needs to embrace a strategic approach to fostering her diplomatic relations with African countries, especially the largest economies such as Egypt, South Africa, and Nigeria. Boosting diplomatic relations with EAC partner states, especially Tanzania and Uganda, could also improve Kenya's exports to the region. This could support the realization of the country's export-led growth enshrined in the 2017 National Trade Policy.

To ensure Kenyan firms have access to relevant and timely information that links them to available trade opportunities in the market created by AfCFTA, Kenya should consider reviewing the 2012 Micro and Small Enterprises Act to require firms to have formal membership with the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority for enhanced access to information on available trade opportunities across the wider AfCFTA market.

Further, firms need to be encouraged to join sector-specific trade associations and chambers of commerce. The private sector could support the government in undertaking capacity building to Kenyan firms on policy and legislative requirements to access various



markets. Importantly, harmonization of rules of origin and unification of certificates of origin could further support realization of Kenya's export-led growth.

For Kenya, further improvement in ease of doing business; efficiency in institutional and regulatory framework, especially on property rights; specific focus on the country's frontier sectors and those with highest total factor productivity; and investment in research and development could enhance the country's export potential under AfCFTA. Mainstreaming gender in trade policy, improving the region's transport network, and enhancing diplomatic ties could enhance market access under the agreement.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

The effective operationalization of AfCFTA highly depends on coherent and complementary policies and strategies. Policies that target women, youth and

persons living with disabilities could unlock opportunities to groups that have traditionally been marginalized, and thus foster alleviation of poverty and inequality. Capacity building through training programmes could support smooth reallocation of labour to sectors with highest growth potential, especially those in textiles and apparel. Reviewing the 2012 MSE Act to require firms to have formal membership with MSEA could build social capital that links traders to information on available trade opportunities. Improving ease of doing business, efficiency in institutional and regulatory framework, and focus on frontier sectors and investment in research and development could enhance the country's export potential. Finally, fostering diplomatic relations with the largest economies in the continent, such as Egypt, South Africa, and Nigeria could provide a much-needed political goodwill in eradicating non-tariff barriers to Kenyan exports.



Assessing the Effectiveness of e-learning Programmes during COVID-19 Era

Eldah Onsomu, Violet Kwamboka, Elton Khaemba and Haron Ng'eno

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya like many other countries across the globe was forced to close learning institutions as a part of the containment measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. Over three quarters of the year 2020 the global student population were severely impacted by these measures with about 15 million (14.3%) from Kenya (UNESCO, 2020¹). Kenya announced the closure of all learning institutions on 15th March 2020.

Learning continued in most developed countries through digital platforms. E-learning, a teaching system based on use of electronic devices used both in and out of classroom, has been widely adopted to ensure continued learning. The use of the Internet, electronic devices such as personal computer, television, radio and smart phones form part of the requirement for effective e-learning. Kenya has also tapped into its technological prowess and innovativeness to ensure continued learning at all levels of the sector. This has seen different forms

¹ UNESCO. (2020a). "290 Million Students out of School due to COVID-19: UNESCO releases first global numbers and mobilizes response": Retrieved from <https://en-unesco.org/news> UNESCO.



of e-learning techniques and collaborations, such as use of education media platforms, radio and scheduled televised educational materials being employed to ensure continuity in learning.

Learners and instructors in Kenya at various levels of education are now able to use the different platforms for online learning. Some of these platforms are Google meet, Zoom, Skype, You Tube, WhatsApp, radio and television. The platforms have made learning more interesting and attractive to both learners and teachers who are able to access the devices and content. The country has seen an increase in educational materials being posted online. For instance, teachers and other stakeholders in the education sector have created instructional content using videos that are being aired on TV, radio and posted on YouTube and in WhatsApp groups to assist with online learning. Both public and private companies have also developed learning applications with content that is user friendly to learners.

While some of the institutions are technologically prepared to embrace e-learning, majority of the learning institutions, especially in rural areas, were unprepared for digital learning. In the pre-primary,

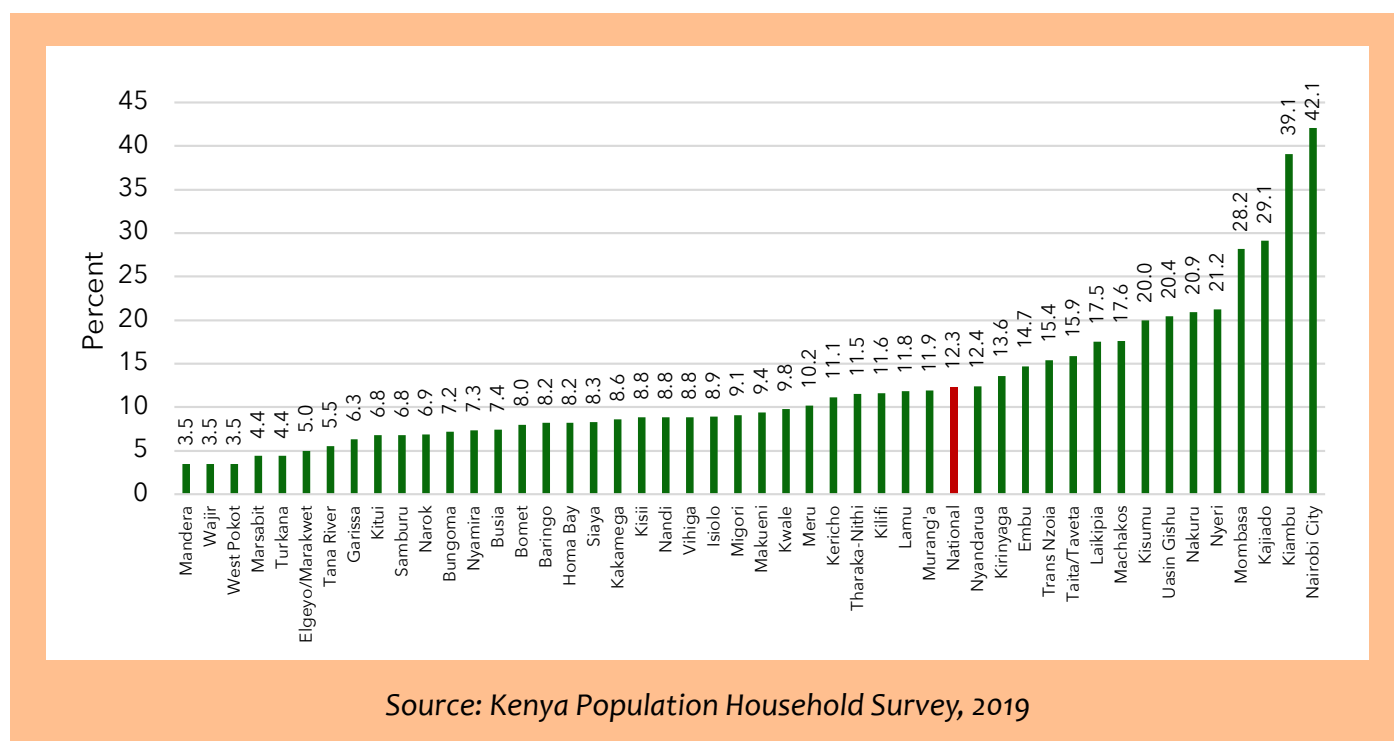
primary and secondary levels, educators are grappling with the reality of inadequate computer literacy skills, inadequate ICT infrastructure, unreliable supply of electricity and poor network coverage, which are familiar with their local contexts. Cutting across, disparities in internet access characterized by poor network coverage across the country, high poverty levels, and reduced household income in the face of the pandemic have led to disparities in access to online educational content. A United Nations Children’s Fund² report shows that about 50 per cent of children in East and Southern Africa are unable to access e-learning, and the youngest of the pool are the most affected.

Access to infrastructure

Even though social and economic development of the 21st Century is expected to take advantage of ICT, one limiting factor is the initial investment and basic infrastructure such as electricity and telephone services and initial equipment such as computers and computer accessories.

According to the Kenya Population Household Survey report 2019, the share of households with

Figure 5: Access to Internet by county



² <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/covid-19-least-third-worlds-schoolchildren-unable-access-remote-learning-during>

internet connection is about 12 per cent, including the use of mobile phone internet and other internet service providers (Figure 4). This translates to approximately 9 in 10 households with no access to online resources for education.

These disparities can be seen in the urban and rural areas, where in more urbanized counties such as Nairobi, Kiambu, Kajiado, Mombasa, Nyeri and Nakuru, learners were able to access basic education due to high access to ICT infrastructure (Figure 4) compared to other counties that have limited access to basic infrastructure. Further, e-learning has been largely utilized in private schools, which are well equipped with most components for e-learning whereas learners in some public schools continue to miss-out on learning.

Further, the survey showed that more than half (54%) of the households have radios and more than 1 in 3 (32%) households have functional TVs (Figure 5). This implies that half of the households have no access to digital devices that could enable them access e-learning materials and lessons. The survey shows that most access is exhibited in urban areas whereas the rural regions of the country have the least access to stand alone radios.

Although 91 per cent of schools have access to the digital learning programme, schools in Kenya are still experiencing challenges of inadequate access to ICT infrastructure. Had it been fully implemented, the Digital Literacy Project launched in 2013 would have benefited about 23,951 public primary schools in Kenya with a total of 10.2 million learners with digital devices. However, according to the National ICT Report 2019, only 9 in every 10 public primary schools have been connected to digital learning devices (Figure 6). Some other infrastructural projects have been introduced recently, including the construction of computer laboratories for public secondary schools countrywide. The last mile connectivity has covered at least 3 in 4 households in Kenya (World Bank, 2018) but learners and teachers are affected by unstable power supply. However, for effective e-learning, learners needed to have been issued with the tablets for use while at home, but this was not the case. Most digital learning devices are only accessed by learners while in school.

Regardless of the various technologies used in dissemination of educational materials, electricity plays a key role in all this. At the national level, about 50 per cent of the households have access to electricity while majority of the counties, which have a low access to electricity, are in the

Figure 6: Access to stand alone radio by county

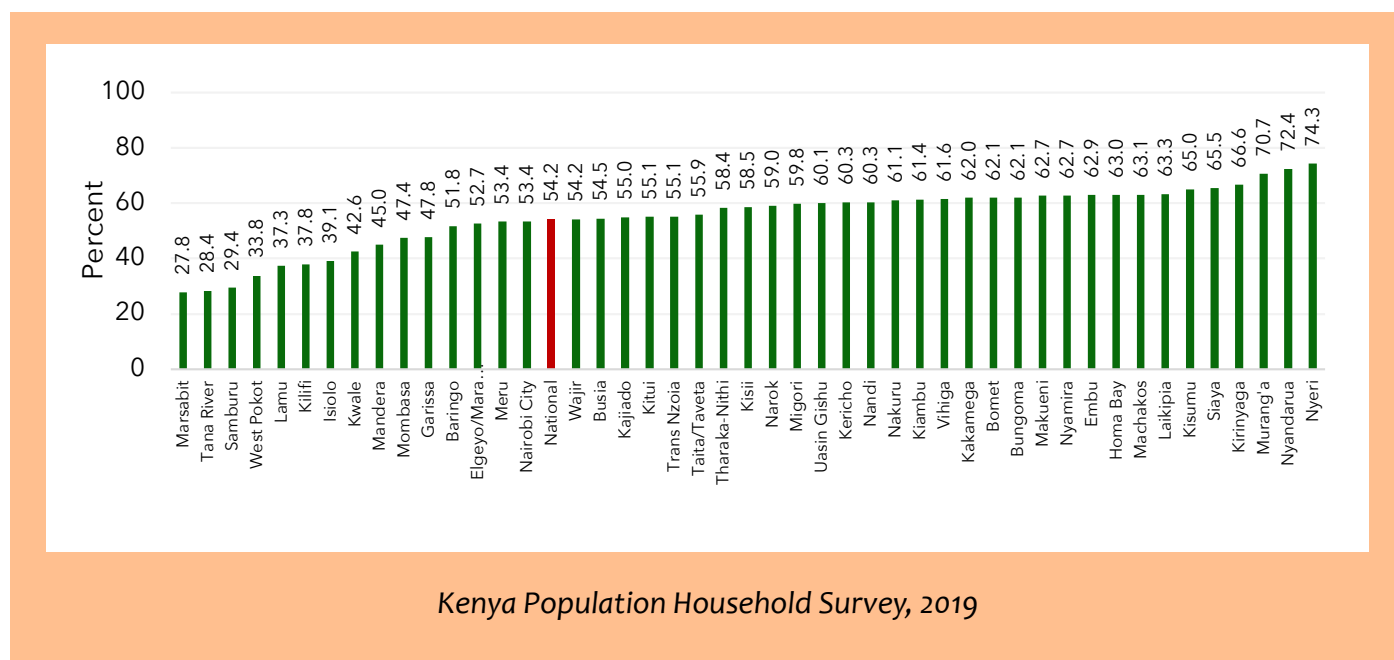


Figure 7: Percentage installed with Digital Learning Devices, by county

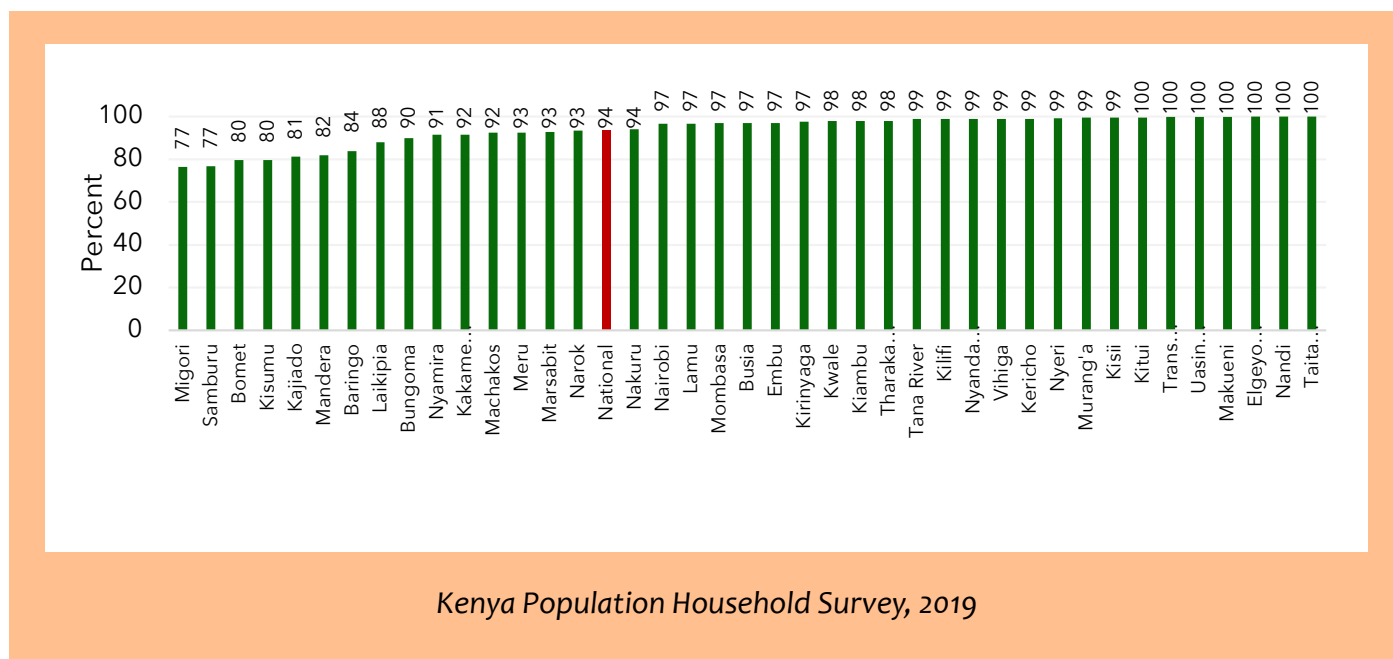
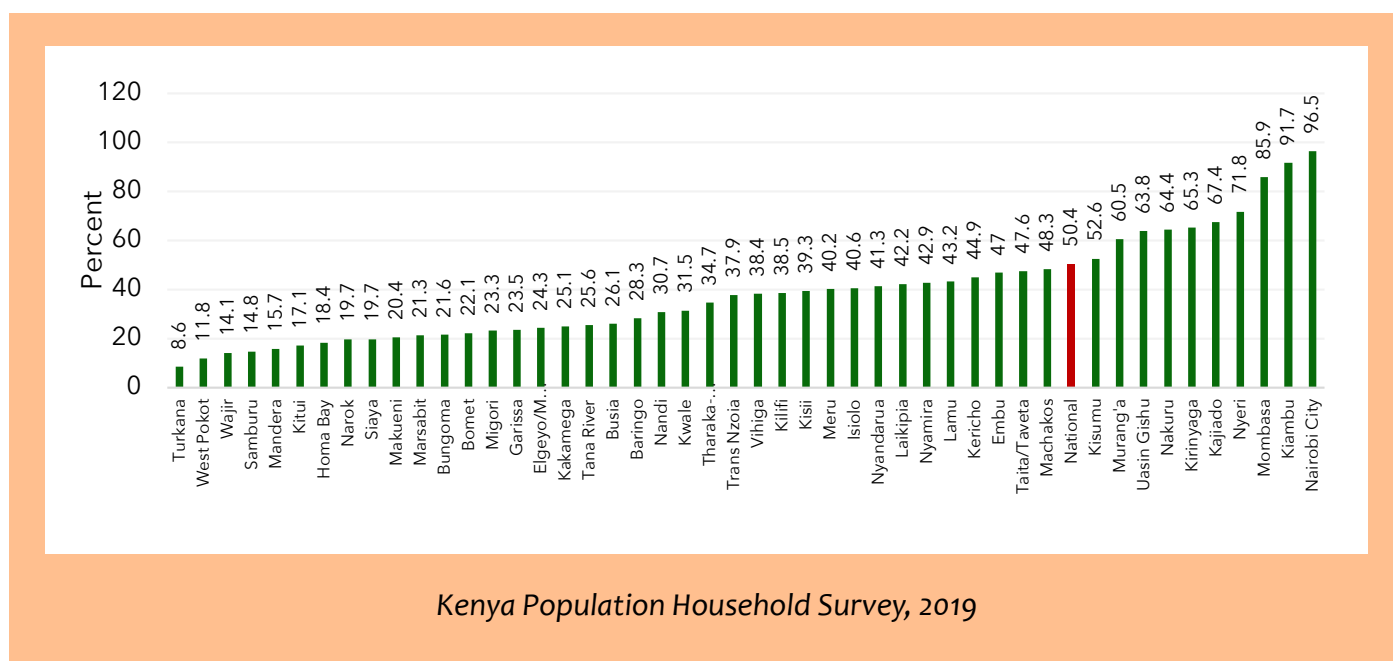


Figure 8: Electricity connectivity across counties in Kenya



rural and less developed counties (Figure 7). In as much as the survey looked at access to electricity, there are gaps in information on the stability and reliability of the said access. Effective e-learning is dependent on access and availability of steady and reliable supply of electricity throughout the learning period. These disparities in access to electricity between the rural and urban areas further widens the gap in e-learning between the poor and marginalized and the “well-off”.

The Kenya Population and Housing Census 2019 shows that the national average ownership of desktop computers, laptops and tablets stands at 5.7 per cent (Figure 8). This depicts large disparities across the country where urban areas show high levels in access whereas marginalized areas have a low access, which is way below the national average. This poses a challenge in delivery of e-learning by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and other private players,

Figure 9: Desktop computer/ laptop/ table

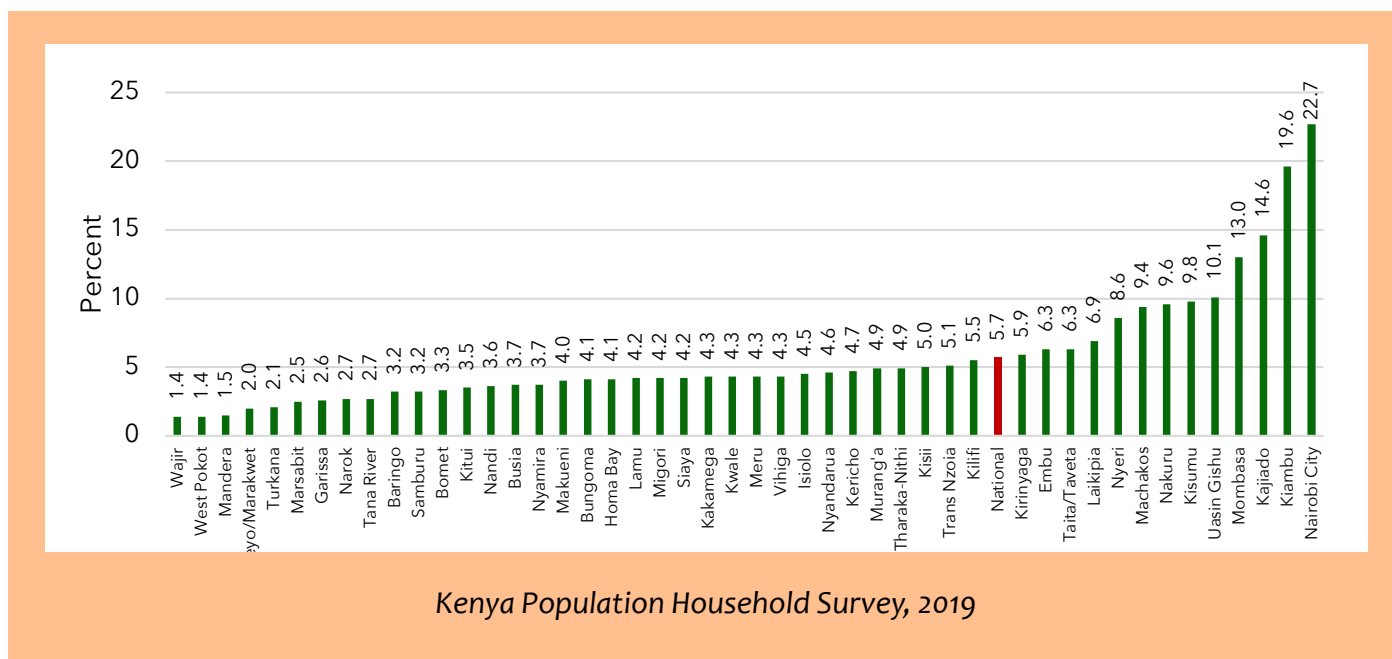
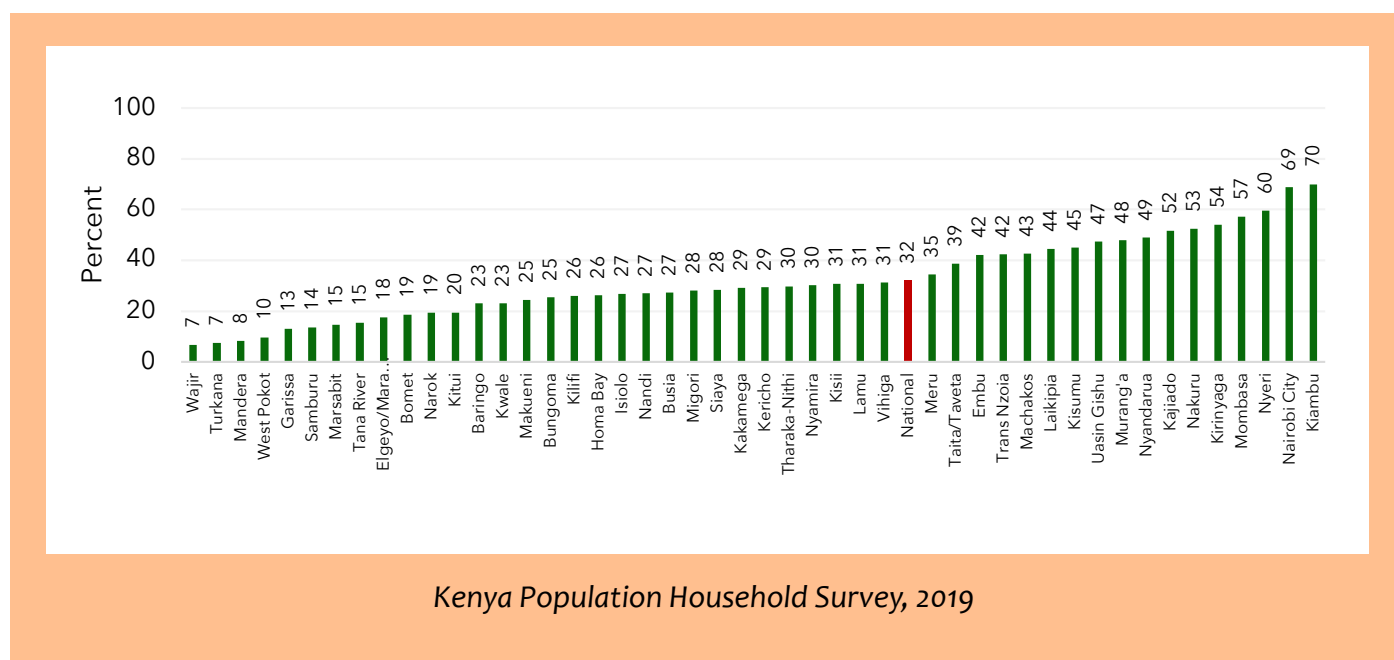


Figure 9: Desktop computer/ laptop/ table



especially at the basic levels of education. At the university level, majority of the students and instructors have access to ICT infrastructure, which ensured continued learning, consistent feedback and assessments.

Dissemination of e-learning materials undertaken by KICD is through programmed television broadcasting. This is for pre-primary, primary and secondary school class. Access to these materials is highly dependent on household access to television

sets. Data from the survey shows that 32 per cent of the households have access to TV sets nationally as shown in Figure 9. Seventeen (17) out of the 47 counties are above the national average whereas the remaining 30 counties are below the national average and majority are from the marginalized areas. The low access has implications on access to e-learning. Learners with no access to TVs have low access to learning materials, aggravating an already existing disparity in access to education in the country.

Some of the positive attributes as a result of the e-learning programme is that it has led to an increase in internet consumption, with both the learners and instructors using the internet to study and teach, respectively. Most of the lessons are conducted online, which requires data bundles. As a way of subsidizing this, Google Loon was able to partner with Telkom Kenya in providing 4G internet across the country to support the e-learning programme while at home. However, to ensure continued learning and sustainable provision of e-learning during and post-COVID-19 period, some of the lessons learnt going forward is the importance of e-learning infrastructure. The United Kingdom, for instance, has continued learning despite the devastating effects of the pandemic. This has been possible because about 91.7 per cent of its student population have computer access from home. In the United States³, the government through the Federal Communication Commission, started a programme called Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which asks internet service providers not to disconnect consumers who were unable to pay their bills during that period. This gave its citizens universal access to internet, a critical component in e-learning.

Majority of the Kenya's population live in the rural areas where electricity and telephone facilities are limited. Interventions on policies that will ensure access of electricity and telephones among the majority of the population for effective e-learning should be put in place. Reduction in taxes and customs on ICT equipment and computer accessories would ensure that ICT is affordable to most Kenyans. It is, therefore, important to provide adequate infrastructure and tools for communication systems and build the requisite technical and human capacity for management of e-learning systems in rural areas. This should also ensure adoption of universal designs targeting learners with disabilities across all education levels. This would involve resource mobilization to provide the required infrastructure, hardware and software requirements and training of teachers during pre-service and in-service. Establishment of existing network technologies such as Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN) is important for enhanced interconnectivity for e-learning and use of ICT in education and training.

For marginalized areas, “centers of convergence” can be developed at strategic points for learners under communities of learning initiatives.

E-learning capacity

The capacity for parents and teachers to support learners to access e-learning, especially for basic education, is fundamental. However, due to relatively low levels of adult literacy in Kenya, which currently stands at 81.53 per cent and ranked 106 globally (UNESCO, 2018), the capacity for parents to support learners through coaching, supervision and examination is minimal. This is further worsened by disparities in the mean years of schooling between parents in urban and rural areas (Figure 10). The characteristics and nature of e-learning involves assisted learning of students by parents and guardians, especially at the basic levels of education. With a national average of seven (7) years of schooling against an ideal 12 years, monitoring, administration and assessment of learner progress poses a challenge.

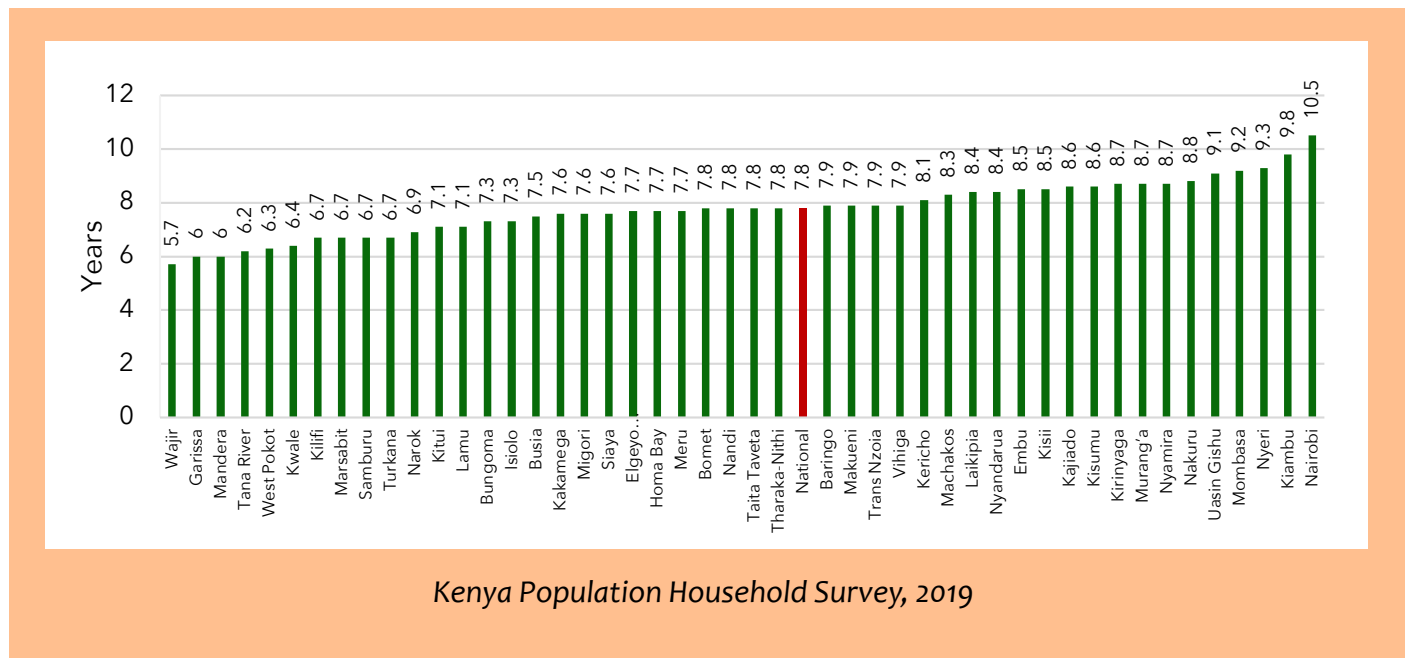
Moreover, the home environment is not conducive for learning, especially for those learners in the rural parts of the country. Learners in the urban areas may have access to e-learning materials and lessons, while for the majority marginalized children in remote villages, including refugee children in camps and those living with various disabilities, e-learning for them is a serious challenge. Further, the low teacher-student interaction during the COVID-19 period poses a challenge in conducting student assessments. Similarly, the daily check-in roles and in-person interaction has shifted from the teacher to the parent.

Public and private universities in Kenya have proved the capacity to admit, teach, examine and graduate their students online. These are good pointers but the Government needs to support some public universities where e-learning systems are yet to be put in place. For these universities, it is now a race against time as the face-to-face teaching methodologies become constrained. For institutions to go digital and support effective e-learning, they need to have invested in online teaching and learning platforms, content development, digital libraries, and internet access.

³ <https://www.brookings.edu/research/5-steps-to-get-the-internet-to-all-americans/>



Figure 11: Mean years of schooling by county, 2019



Conversely, since majority of the teachers had benefited from the training offered under the Digital Learning Programme (DLP), most had requisite capacity to support e-learning. In this regard, e-interventions geared towards education and training have a crucial role in promotion of the ICT culture. This will have to start with e-learning integration into the education curriculum at all levels while ensuring that those leaving the formal schooling are computer literate. Those graduating from the formal school system and would wish to specialize in this field would be facilitated to join post-school institutions of their choice to further their know-how and skills. Universities, which form the apex of education and training, should also ensure that e-learning is integrated in their curricula.

Appropriate content and curbing cybercrime

The KICD has taken the lead in developing and disseminating programmed digital educational materials for learners at the pre-primary, primary and secondary school levels. At the basic level of education, the DLP content portal has uploaded content from KICD curriculum for all grades and learning areas, Tusome Programme, Kenya Publishers Association (KPA) and the Open Education Resources are some of the digital resources that can be used by the learners and teachers. At the post-secondary levels, it is the prerogative of higher learning institutions to

ensure timely delivery of educational materials and consistent feedback from instructors.

ICT and e-learning or ICT in the classroom are not a passing phenomenon. They will continue to develop and will bring about fundamental changes in the provision of education at all levels. This requires coming up with an ideal model for implementing ICT both in teacher training and the classroom with a view to assisting the country come up with ideal options of implementing appropriate ICT programmes in the respective education levels. Besides, implementation of the competency-based curriculum (CBC) and competency-based education and training (CBET), technical institutions demand high levels of ICT integration and effective e-learning innovations.

Conclusion

For continued e-learning now and post-COVID-19 period, it is important to put in place mechanisms to ensure uninterrupted learning in future regardless of unforeseen pandemics. Strong collaborations and partnerships between the Ministry of Education, various Government departments and agencies, development partners and private sector players provide access to quality, equitable and inclusive education to learners from across the country constitute critical policy strategies. To this end, the result will be a well-equipped skilled society and technologically advanced country.



Taking Stock of Measures Implemented in Containing COVID-19 and its Effects

By Paul Lutta

According to the World Health Organization, as at 28th January 2021, 220 countries across the World have been affected by COVID-19 with 100,445,529 people testing positive for the virus while 2,166,440 have died. In Kenya, 100,323 persons have tested positive, 1,751 people have died because of COVID-19 complications while 83,757 persons have recovered from Coronavirus as at 28th January 2021. Towards the end of August 2020, the country positivity rate had improved from 13 per cent in June 2020 to 15 per cent in August 2020 with a possibility of going down if the COVID-19 protocols were adhered to. Similarly, the recovery rate was high at 58 per cent.

With the ever-evolving nature of COVID-19, countries continue to come up with several drastic measures for prevention, control and treatment of the pandemic. These included: observance of hand hygiene, continuous testing, intensification on case finding contact tracing, regular provision of information on COVID-19, among others. In addition, the onset of distribution of vaccines with high levels of efficacy is a major milestone in containing the pandemic.

After the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Kenya in March 2020, the Government has continued to initiate a raft of measures aimed at: prevention and treatment of the disease, cushioning households and businesses from the effects of the pandemic and ensuring continuation of public services to the citizenry as indicated in Table 2. These measures were put in place in form of Head of State Addresses (thirteen address delivered by the President and one delivered by the Interior Cabinet Secretary), and legislations passed by Parliament and County assemblies. It is important to note that the Government has been adhering to WHO guidelines on accurate reporting of COVID-19 cases and other developments in relations to treatment and prevention of COVID-19. This article reviews the several measures taken to contain the COVID-19 and its effects under the following sub-themes:

a) Movement restriction and gatherings

The Public Order Act Cap 50 Laws of Kenya has been widely used in restricting movement and gatherings. The Act was amended to include Public

Order (State Curfew) Order 2020 through the Kenya Gazette Supplement Notice, No. 1 of 25th March 2020. This restricted movements of persons at particular times of the day through what is commonly known as dawn to dusk curfew, with exemption of persons providing critical services. The Act also prohibits public gatherings, which meant suspension of activities such as learning in institutions, sports activities, political activities, religious activities and other cultural activities such as weddings. The Act banned movement of persons in and out of the country through closure of border points.

Further, the amended Public Health Act Cap 242 restricted movements of persons to infected areas by any means of transport unless for the purpose of delivery of essential goods and services. The Act also prohibited social gatherings, groupings, assembly or crowding in either public spaces, buildings or premises used for activities such as beauty enhancement, sporting, religious, cultural, political, academic apart from marketing related activities. The Act permitted funeral activities to take place but with limitations on the number of persons allowed to attend (maximum number of 15 persons were allowed initially with social distancing in place but later extended to 100). Additionally, it was provided that upon deaths resulting from COVID-19, the body of the victim was to be interred or cremated within forty-eight (48) hours.

From time to time, the Government has had to review movement and travel restriction measures aimed at supporting growth of the economy and furthering enjoyment of individual rights. Currently, the national dawn to dusk curfew starts from 10 pm to 4 a.m. running until 12th March 2021. Similarly, operating hours of hotels, restaurants and bars whose hours had earlier been reduced have had to be extended as reported in Table 2. Other activities that have resumed operations include schools, religious activities, sports activities, and local and international air transport. These activities have had to operate in strict observance of COVID-19 prevention measures.

b) Health

The health sector has been adversely affected by the pandemic and several measures have been put in place to support the sector. These are in addition to the amended Public Health Act, Cap 242 Public

and the Public Order Act, restricting movement of persons in infected areas and a ban on other activities to help contain the spread of COVID-19. These included setting up of a National Emergency Response Committee on Coronavirus to advise the Government on preparedness, preparation of quarantine and isolation facilities and setting a side of Ksh1.7 billion for the expansion of bed capacity in public hospitals. Further, an additional, Ksh 1.0 billion was reallocated from the Universal Health Coverage kitty, appropriated towards the recruitment of additional health workers to support in the management of the spread of COVID-19. The President also directed the Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry of Health to develop a welfare package to cushion these frontline officers, especially during this challenging time. This included provision of medical insurance to cover the health requirements of hospital staff, especially those dealing with the pandemic. The President also directed the County Governments to receive a 3-month waiver from the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) requirements for the purchase of masks and personal protective equipment (PPEs) to protect citizens and healthcare workers from infection. This waiver applies to sourcing of these products locally. The National government was also to hire an additional 5,000 healthcare workers with diploma/certificate - level qualification for a period of one year. The Ministry of Health also developed protocols to temporarily retain retired anesthetists and ICU staff to support the medical staff assigned to dealing with serious COVID-19 cases in the counties.

c) Hygiene

The Public Health Act Cap 242 Laws of Kenya was amended to include the Public Health (COVID-19 restriction of movement of persons and related measures) rules, 2020 through the Kenya Gazette Supplement Notice, No. 1 of 6th April 2020. The Act sought to maintain hygiene whereby every person who is in a public place is required to maintain physical distance of no less than one metre from the next person, and use a proper face mask that must cover the mouth and nose. The guidelines also mandate organizations, business entities, traders or vendors in markets or in enclosed space to provide handwashing facilities with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizers at their business location or entrance to their premises for their customers and to put in place measures to ensure that physical distance of no less than one metre is



maintained between persons accessing or within their premises and regularly sanitize their premises or business location. The County governments, other relevant Government agencies and private organizations donated handwashing facilities, water tanks, soap, and hand sanitizers to markets and other public places as one way of supporting hand hygiene. Enforcement agencies were urged to ensure strict adherence to all public health social measures, including hand washing, social distancing and mandatory wearing of masks in public places. To enhance civic responsibility, the National and County Governments resolved that, going forward, services will not be rendered to anyone who does not abide by the Ministry of Health protocols. In that regard, the private sector is to join the Government in the public sensitization campaign dubbed, “No mask, No service” “Bila barakoa, hakuna huduma”.

Additionally, County governments have also been at the forefront in the fight against COVID-19 by providing several guidelines. For instance, some counties have amended their County Public Health Acts by including Public Health Regulations 2020 to prescribe additional precautions and measures to prevent, suppress and control the transmission and spread of the COVID-19 virus within their jurisdictions. Similarly, County governments developed market protocols which included: fumigation of markets before the traders set up their wares, managing market entry and exit points, provision of hand washing facilities, ensuring random temperature checks of sellers and buyers, and COVID-19 sensitization for market users. For open air markets, the County governments were to ensure social distancing is maintained by preparing new layout plans with markings on the floor separating sellers from each other.

d) Working from home

To ensure continuity of government business during the pandemic period, all State and Public Officers with pre-existing medical conditions and/or aged 58 years and above, serving in Job Group S and below or their equivalents, were to take leave or work from home, excluding personnel in the security sector and other essential services. To curb the shortage of teachers affected by working from home directive, an additional amount of Ksh 6.5 billion was allocated to the Ministry of Education to hire 10,000 teachers and 1,000 ICT interns to

support digital learning and to cater for other school infrastructure. Additionally, all Cabinet Secretaries, Chief Administrative Secretaries and Principal Secretaries were to scale-down all in-person engagements within Government and to take appropriate steps to foster the discharge of their mandates by themselves and their officers through virtual means where possible.

e) Fiscal measures

A raft of fiscal measures were undertaken to cushion several sectors of the economy from being affected severely. The fiscal measures included (Table 2): reduction of Income Tax Rate (Pay-As-You-Earn) from 30 per cent to 25 per cent, reduction of VAT from 16 per cent to 14 per cent, a 100 percent waiver of Tax Relief for persons earning gross monthly income of up to Ksh 24,000, reduction in corporation Tax from 30 per cent to 25 per cent, and reduction of the turnover tax rate from the 3 per cent to 1 per cent for all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Reduction of income tax rate has so far put an estimated Ksh 47.8 billion into the pockets of Kenyans by December 2020. These measures were later revised to its status quo beginning 1st January 2021.

These fiscal measures were supported by Tax Laws (Amendment Bill) 2020, which included Income Tax Act (CAP 470), Value Added Tax Act of 2013, Excise Duty Act (2015), Tax Procedures Act (2015), Miscellaneous Levies and Fees Act (2016), and amendment to section 6 (1) and section 5 (1) of the Value Added Tax Act, 2013. Additionally, the Government authorized payment of pending bills totaling Ksh13 billion by Government ministries and departments to service providers while the Kenya Revenue Authority was to expedite the payment of all verified VAT refund claims amounting to Ksh 10 billion within 3 weeks; or in the alternative, allow for offsetting of Withholding VAT, to improve cash flows for businesses.

f) Liquidity management

The monetary policy measures included the lowering of the Central Bank Rate (CBR) to 7.25 per cent from 8.25 per cent, which prompted commercial banks to lower lending rates, thus availing the much needed and affordable credit to MSMEs across the country. The Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank further reduced



the CBR to 7 per cent and has maintained it at that level. There was also lowering of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.25 per cent from 5.25 per cent to provide additional liquidity of Ksh 35 billion to commercial banks to support borrowers.

To support the growth of businesses, the Government set aside Ksh 3 billion as seed capital for the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme. The intention here is to provide affordable credit to small and micro enterprises to bring them back in business. In addition to this, the Government would engage the SMEs in the manufacture of locally assembled hospital beds and the manufacture of other medical supplies such as masks for domestic and export consumption.

g) Resource mobilization

The Government amended the the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (No. 18 of 2012) by coming up with the Public Finance Management (COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund) Regulations, 2020. The objective of the Fund was to mobilize resources for emergency response towards the containment, spread and impact of COVID-19 which raised Ksh 1 billion (as at 29th April 2020). The contributions were from corporate and business entities, Government institutions and individuals. A larger proportion of the Fund was used to buy food and non-food items for distribution to the vulnerable groups in the society. Further, some counties amended their finance Acts to allocate additional funds to support the health infrastructure and social protection to contain the effects of COVID-19.

h) Social protection

COVID-19 has led to reduced economic activities, thus affecting jobs. On 16th April, 2020 the Government released Ksh 8.5 billion to elderly and

vulnerable individuals whereby Ksh 250 million were released weekly to vulnerable families under the cash transfer programme, and released Ksh 500 million to persons with severe disabilities to cushion them from the effects of COVID-19. Furthermore, there were also other social protection initiatives in form of finances and food distribution that had been launched by County governments to cushion vulnerable households from the effects of COVID-19. Similarly, the Government launched the National hygiene programme (commonly referred to as Kazi Mtaani), which seeks to employ 26,148 workers and is expected to grow to 100,000 youths across the country in 23 informal settlements and most affected counties. The aim of the programme is to offer economic relief to youths and families, while also ensuring environment protection.

In conclusion, this article has looked at various guidelines and measures that have been undertaken by the Government to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to cushion individuals and businesses from the immediate impact of COVID-19. To a large extent, the measures have been effective in reducing the spread of the virus, which has been indicated by declining numbers of infections and deaths. Adherence to COVID-19 regulations has proved to be effective in controlling the spread and treatment of the pandemic. This therefore calls for stringent enforcement and adherence to the guidelines.



Table 2: Policy measures and behavioural protocols put to address the effects of COVID-19 as given by the President of the Republic of Kenya

| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
|--|---|
| March 15th 2020 (First Presidential Address on Coronavirus pandemic) | <p>Movement restrictions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Government suspended travel for all persons coming into Kenya from countries with reported Coronavirus cases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Kenyan citizens, and foreigners with valid residence permits were allowed to come into the country, provided they proceeded on self-quarantine or to a government-designated quarantine facility. This directive was to be effected within the next 48 hours to cater for any passengers who may have been enroute. This directive was to remain in effect for the next 30 days. • All persons who come into Kenya in the previous 14 days (from March 1st March 2020) were to be self-quarantined. If any person exhibited symptoms such as cough, or fever, they were supposed to present themselves to the nearest health facility for testing. <p>Education sector</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Learning was suspended in all education institutions with immediate effect. 3) For those in boarding schools, the school administration were to ensure that students were at home by Wednesday, 18th March 2020 while universities and tertiary institutions were to close by Friday, 20th March 2020. <p>Working from home</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Where possible, government offices, businesses and companies were encouraged to allow employees to work from home, with the exception of employees working in critical or essential services. <p>Cashless transaction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Encouraged the use of cashless transactions such as mobile money and credit cards. Appeal to mobile operators and banks to take into consideration the situation and reduce the cost of transactions during this period. <p>Social gathering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) In line with the directive to avoid crowded places, citizens were encouraged to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid congregating including in places of worship. • Minimize attendance to social gatherings, including weddings and funerals, and restrict the same to immediate family members. • Avoid crowded places including shopping malls and entertainment premises. • Minimize congestion in public transport, wherever possible. • Limitation of visitors to hospitalized patients in both public and private hospitals. <p>Hygiene</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) Hospitals and shopping malls were encouraged to provide soap, water and hand sanitizers and ensure that all their premises were regularly cleaned and disinfected. |

| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
|---|---|
| <p>March 25th, 2020 (Second Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic)</p> | <p>Fiscal measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 100 % Tax Relief for persons earning gross monthly income of up to Ksh 24,000. 2) Reduction of Income Tax Rate (Pay-As-You-Earn) from 30% to 25%. 3) Reduction of Resident Income Tax (Corporation Tax) from 30% to 25%. 4) Reduction of Turnover Tax rate from the current 3% to 1% for all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). 5) The National Treasury shall cause immediate reduction of the VAT from 16% to 14%, effective 1st April 2020. <p>Social protection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Appropriation of an additional Ksh 10 billion to the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of society through cash-transfers by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, to cushion them from the adverse economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. <p>Access to finance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) Temporary suspension of the listing with Credit Reference Bureaus (CRB) of any person, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMES) and corporate entities whose loan account fall overdue or is in arrears, effective 1st April 2020. <p>Fiscal measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8) All Ministries and Departments shall cause the payment of at least of Ksh 13 billion of the verified pending bills within three weeks from the date hereof. Similarly, and to improve liquidity in the economy and ensure businesses remain afloat by enhancing their cash flows, the private sector is also encouraged to clear all outstanding payments among themselves within three weeks from the date hereof. 9) The Kenya Revenue Authority shall expedite the payment of all verified VAT refund claims amounting to Ksh 10 billion within 3 weeks; or in the alternative, allow for offsetting of Withholding VAT, to improve cash flows for businesses. <p>Health sector</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10) That Ksh 1.0 billion from the Universal Health Coverage kitty, be immediately appropriated strictly towards the recruitment of additional health workers to support in the management of the spread of COVID-19. In that regard, the Ministry of Health, the County Governments and the Public Service Commission to expedite the recruitment process. <p>Burden sharing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11) In sharing the burden occasioned by the present global health pandemic, over the duration of the global crisis and commencing immediately, a voluntary reduction in the salaries of the senior ranks of the National Executive, as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The President & Deputy President – 80% ii. Cabinet Secretaries – 30% iii. Chief Administrative Secretaries – 30% iv. Principal Secretaries – 20% |



Related to that, the other arms of Government and tiers of Government to join in making similar voluntary reductions, which will free-up monies to combat this pandemic.

Working from home

- 12) State Agencies to establish and implement frameworks for staff to work from home.
- 13) All State and Public Officers with pre-existing medical conditions and/or aged 58 years and above, serving in Job Group S and below or their equivalents, take leave or forthwith work from home, excluding personnel in the security sector and other essential services.

Liquidity management

- 14) The lowering of the Central Bank Rate (CBR) to 7.25% from 8.25%, which will prompt commercial banks to lower the interest rates to their borrowers, availing the much needed and affordable credit to MSMEs across the country.
- 15) The lowering of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.25% from 5.25% will provide additional liquidity of Ksh 35 billion to commercial banks to directly support borrowers that are distressed as a result of the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 16) The Central Bank of Kenya shall provide flexibility to banks with regard to requirements for loan classification and provisioning for loans that were performing as at 2nd March 2020 and whose repayment period was extended or were restructured due to the pandemic.

National curfew

- 17) Effective Friday, 27th March 2020, a daily curfew from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. was set in the territory of the Republic of Kenya, with all movement by persons not authorized to do so or not being medical professionals, health workers, critical and essential services providers, being prohibited between those hours.
- 18) The management of the Kenya Ferry Services was vested in the National Police Service, the Coast Guard and the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO).

Hygiene

In addition, the President further explained the most effective way to limit the spread of the virus was through basic changes in individual behaviour and hygiene, that is:

- 19) Wash hands frequently with hand sanitizers or soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- 20) Cover our nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow.
- 21) Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- 22) Social distancing is now our new norm, it is our new way of life.

| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
|---|--|
| <p>April 6th, 2020 (Third Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic)</p> | <p>Movement Restriction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduction of cessation of all movement by road, rail or air in and out of the Nairobi Metropolitan Area; and the counties of Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cessation of movement in and out of Nairobi Metropolitan Area shall be for an initial containment period of 21 days with effect from 7:00 pm on Monday, 6th April 2020. • The movement within the Nairobi Metropolitan Area and the counties of Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa shall continue subject to the nationwide curfew. • The cessation of movement within the counties of Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa shall be for an initial containment period of 21 days with effect from 7:00 pm on Wednesday, 8th April 2020. In the intervening period movement in and out of the counties of Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa shall be restricted and supervised by the Kenya Police. • The movement of food supplies and other cargo will continue as normal during the declared containment period through road, railway and air. • Any cargo-carrying vehicle or vessel shall be charged to a single driver and designated assistants; all of whom shall be designated as such in writing by the owner or operator of the said vehicle or vessel with reference to that vehicle or vessel. <p>Sporting events</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) The Ministry of Sports, Culture, and Heritage to avail an additional support of Ksh 100 million from the Sports Fund to artists, actors and musicians during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. <p>Social protection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) The Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, in collaboration with Kenya Copyright Board, Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) established a framework to ensure full transparency for artist's earnings. President's administration projected that a total of Ksh 200 million every month will be paid to musicians through the system and other platforms. This translates to over Ksh 2 billion going into the pockets of Kenyan artists. |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| <p>APRIL 16th, 2020 (Fourth Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic)</p> | <p>Health Sector</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recognizing the critical importance of health, mental and emotional needs of frontline medical doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, the president directed the Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry of Health to develop a welfare package to cushion these frontline officers, especially during this challenging time. This should include actions by medical insurance companies to cover the health requirements of hospital staff especially those dealing with the pandemic. 2) The President directed the County Governments to receive a 3-month waiver from the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) requirements for the purchase of masks and PPEs to protect citizens and healthcare workers from infection. This waiver applies to sourcing of these products locally. <p>National and Count government collaboration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) The President indicated that the National Government will also support the counties' response to the Coronavirus crisis with Ksh 5 billion that will supplement the savings that the counties have generated. These monies will be devoted specifically to cushion the most vulnerable people, and to protect healthcare workers. <p>Social protection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) To further cushion vulnerable Kenyans, the President indicated to have identified needy households in Nairobi that will be the inaugural recipients of the weekly COVID-19 Support Stipend. The piloting of the programme started yesterday and some of the initial beneficiaries have received their stipend. 5) In addition, the President's administration released Ksh 8.5 billion to the elderly and vulnerable individuals under the Cash Transfer Programme run by the Ministry of Labour, for the months ahead. In addition, Ksh 500 million, which were in arrears, have also been released to persons with severe disabilities. |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| April 25th, 2020 (Fifth Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic) | <p>Movement restriction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The cessation of movement into and out of the Nairobi Metropolitan Area and the counties of Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa that is currently in force extended for a further containment period of 21 days. 2) To ensure that porous borders and security threats do not compromise our response to this pandemic, the security services will upgrade their alert and response measures in every border area. <p>National Curfew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) The nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew that is currently in force be extended for a further period of 21 days. <p>Social protection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) The President announced a national hygiene programme (Kazi Mtaani), which commenced on Wednesday 29th April 2020. The programme was initiated to create jobs while making environment healthier amidst the pandemic. This first phase of the national hygiene programme employed 26,148 workers. This added to the 108,000 vulnerable households presently receiving direct cash grants, and the senior citizens programme offering tangible relief to the most needy. |

| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 16th May 2020 (Sixth Presidential Address on Coronavirus pandemic) | <p>Movement restriction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduction of cessation of movement of persons and any passenger ferrying automobiles and vehicles into and out of the territory of Republic of Kenya through the Kenya-Tanzania international border except for cargo vehicles, with effect from midnight today, Saturday 16th May 2020. 2) Introduction of cessation of movement of persons and any passenger ferrying automobiles and vehicles into and out of the territory of the Republic of Kenya through the Kenya-Somalia international border except for cargo vehicles, with effect from midnight today, Saturday 16th May 2020. 3) Drivers of the cargo vehicles were subjected to mandatory COVID-19 disease testing and will only be granted entry into the territory of the Republic of Kenya if they test negative. 4) The cessation of movement into and out of the Nairobi Metropolitan Area and the counties of Kilifi, Kwale, Mombasa and Mandera that was currently in force was extended up to and until the 6th June 2020. <p>National Curfew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) The nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew that was currently in force was extended for a further period of 21 days up to and until the 6th June 2020. |



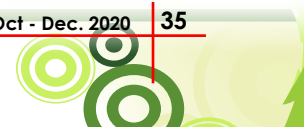
| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 23rd May 2020 (Seventh Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic) | <p>The stimulus programme</p> <p>Announced the rolling out of my 8-point economic stimulus programme, amounting to a total of Ksh 53.7 billion.</p> <p>The injection of this money into the economy will stimulate growth and cushion families and companies to navigate ways out of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The eight stimulus programmes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Infrastructure - set aside a total of Ksh 5 billion to hire local labour for this undertaking. 2) Education - Ksh 6.5 billion to the Ministry of Education and to hire 10,000 teachers and 1,000 ICT interns to support digital learning. The programme was to support the improvement of school infrastructure, including acquisition of 250,000 locally fabricated desks. 3) Small and medium enterprises - allocated Ksh 10 billion to fast-track payment of outstanding VAT refunds and other pending payments. Released Ksh 30 billion towards payment of pending bills in the roads sector. This will inject Ksh 3 billion as seed capital for the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme. 4) Health – National government to hire an additional 5,000 healthcare workers with diploma/certificate - level qualification for a period of one year, stimulus programme will set aside Ksh 1.7 billion for the expansion of bed capacity in public hospitals. 5) Agriculture - prioritized Ksh 3 billion for the supply of farm inputs through e-vouchers, targeting 200,000 small scale farmers. This was meant to cushion farmers from the effects of adverse weather, and to secure food supply chains in the post COVID-19 period and into the future. Further, under this programme, there was allocation of Ksh 1.5 billion to assist flower and horticultural producers to access international markets, in a period where there was a shortage of flights into and out of the country. 6) Tourism - will provide soft loans to hotels and related establishments through the Tourism Finance Corporation (TFC), and a total of Ksh 2 billion will be set aside to support renovation of facilities and the restructuring of business operations by actors in this industry. The tourism component of the stimulus programme will also engage 5,500 community scouts under the Kenya Wildlife Service at a cost of Ksh 1 billion. Additionally, support will be made available to approximately 160 community conservancies at a cost of Ksh 1 billion. 7) Environment - to mitigate the impact of deforestation and climate change, and to enhance the provision of water facilities, the National government will rehabilitate wells, water pans and underground tanks in the arid and semi-arid areas. For this purpose, the Government set aside Ksh 850 million. A further Ksh 1 billion was set aside for flood control measures, and another Ksh 540 million for the Greening Kenya Campaign. 8) Manufacturing - an initial investment of Ksh 600 million to purchase locally manufactured vehicles. This is expected to sustain the operations of local motor vehicle manufacturers, and the attendant employment of workers. |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 06th June 2020 (Eighth Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The cessation of movement into and out of the Eastleigh area of Nairobi and the specific limitations in force with respect to the Mombasa Old Town area that was currently in force, shall lapse at 4:00 a.m. on 7th of June 2020. 2) The view of the successful containment of the disease in the counties of Kilifi and Kwale, the cessation of movement into and out of the two counties that is currently in force, shall lapse at 4:00 a.m. on 7th of June 2020. 3) Due to the increase in patterns of infections, the cessation of movement into and out of the Nairobi Metropolitan area, Mombasa and Mandera be further extended by 30 days. <p>Education sector</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Following stakeholder’s consultations in the education sector - the Ministry of Education jointly with the Ministry of Health issues and publicizes guidelines on a gradual and progressive return to normalcy in the education sector by the third term from 1st September 2020. Further, that the ministry announces the new school calendar by mid -August. <p>Religious, social, and political gathering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Following consultations with interfaith and religious organizations, the Ministries of Interior and Health within seven days, constitutes an Inter-Faith Council, to work out modalities and protocols of re-opening of the places of worship. 6) The ban on all forms of gatherings, including but not limited to political gatherings, social gatherings, including bars be and is hereby extended for a further 30 days. <p>Transport sector</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) The Ministry of Transport is directed within seven days from the date hereof, to engage all key stakeholders and develop protocols to guide resumption of local air travel. <p>National curfew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8) To accord all Kenyans the opportunity to enjoy a full-day’s work, the nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew that was currently in force until the 6th June 2020, be and was extended for a further 30 days. However, the commencement time for the same was varied from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; with the end time for the same being varied from 5:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. Therefore, effective 7th June 2020 the national wide dusk-to-dawn curfew will run from 9:00 O’clock in the evening to 4:00 O’clock in the morning. <p>Isolation facilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9) Every County government to deliver isolation facilities with at least 300 bed-capacity. <p>Opening of the economy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10) within 14 days, develop time bound protocols for progressive re-opening of the economy. |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| <p>06th July 2020 (Ninth Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic)</p> | <p>Movement restriction</p> <p>1) The cessation of movement into and out of the Nairobi Metropolitan area, Mombasa County and Mandera County, that was currently in force, shall lapse at 4:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 7th July 2020.</p> <p>National Curfew</p> <p>2) The Nationwide curfew that was currently in force between the hours of 9 pm and 4am daily, be and was hereby extended by a further 30 days.</p> <p>Religious, social and political gatherings</p> <p>3) The places of worship to commence phased re-opening for congregational worship and public (in-person) worship in strict conformity with all applicable guidelines and protocols, including the self-regulating guidelines developed by the Inter-Faith Council.</p> <p>4) In line with the guidelines issued by the Inter-Faith Council, only a maximum of one hundred (100) participants will be allowed at each worship ceremony and not be more than one hour.</p> <p>5) Sunday schools and Madrassas remained suspended until further notice, and in-person worship shall not include congregants under the age of thirteen (13) years or above the age of fifty-eight (58) years or persons with underlying conditions.</p> <p>6) Prohibition against social and political gatherings, of whatever nature, was extended for a further period of 30 days.</p> <p>7) The restriction of the operation of bars to ‘take-away’ only, and the restrictions on the number of persons who can attend weddings and funerals was extended for a further period of 30 days.</p> <p>Education sector</p> <p>8) Following consultations with stakeholders in the education sector, and cognizant of the surge in the rate of infections, the Ministry of Education jointly with all the stakeholders in the sector shall today (06-07-2020), not later than tomorrow (07-07-2020), notify the public on the resumption of the 2020 academic calendar for basic education and tertiary institutions.</p> <p>Transport sector</p> <p>9) There shall be no movement of public transport vehicles into and out of the areas previously under cessation of movement restrictions, without the public transport providers being compliant with all protocols developed by the Ministry of Health. To operate, public service vehicles the operators will require mandatory certification from the Ministry of Health, in consultation with Ministry of Transport.</p> <p>10) Local air travel within the territory of the Republic of Kenya to resume effective Wednesday 15th July 2020 in strict conformity with all applicable guidelines and protocols from both the Ministry of Health and civil aviation authorities.</p> <p>11) International air travel into and out of the territory of the Republic of Kenya to resume effective 1st August 2020; in strict conformity with all protocols from the Ministry of Health, local and international civil aviation authorities, and any additional requirements applicable at the ports of departure, arrival or transit.</p> |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 06th July 2020 (Ninth Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic) | <p>Secondhand cloths</p> <p>12) The Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development shall establish protocols for the resumption of the importation and sale of imported/second-hand clothes.</p> |

| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 27th July 2020 (Tenth Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic) | <p>National curfew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The nationwide curfew remained in force for a further 30 days. 2) There will be no sale of alcoholic drinks and beverages in eateries and restaurants across the territory of the Republic of Kenya, effective at midnight today, for the next 30 days. 3) The closing time for restaurants and eateries amended from 8 pm to 7 pm, starting at midnight, for the next 30 days. 4) Bars to remain closed until further notice. 5) The Inspector-General of the National Police Service shall cause withdrawal of all licenses for bars operating in breach of this directive. 6) The Inspector General shall file a weekly return of all bars whose licenses have been withdrawn to the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government. 7) The Inspector General of Police shall ensure that his officers spare no msheshimiwa, or individual, regardless of social status or rank, who is either out after curfew or who flaunts the health protocols without being an essential worker. The rules are for all of us, and rank or status does not exempt you from them. <p>Religious, social and political gathering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8) The National Government Administration Officers and the National Police Service will strictly enforce Ministry of Health protocols on public gatherings, and particularly funerals. 9) Strict personal sanction will ensue to all police and National Administration officers in whose areas of jurisdiction there is breach of the set guidelines. <p>Health sector</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10) The Ministry of Health will develop a protocol to temporarily retain retired anesthetists and ICU staff to support the medical staff assigned to dealing with serious COVID-19 cases in the counties. <p>Isolation centres</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11) The Government institutions including all sporting facilities, stadia and educational institutions and other government facilities, upon designation by the Cabinet Secretary for Health as a public health facility, shall be availed to the Ministry of Health for Isolation and quarantine purposes. |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 26th August 2020 (Eleventh Presidential Address on Coronavirus pandemic) | <p>National and County government collaboration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government in conjunction with the Chairperson of the Council of Governors shall, in three weeks, convene an inclusive National Consultative Conference to review National and County COVID response and together with all stakeholders chart Kenya's post-COVID future. <p>National Curfew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) The closure of bars and nightclubs was continued for a further 30 days. However, the prohibition against the sale of alcohol by licensed hotels with residence is vacated. In the next 30 days, bar owners, in consultation with the Ministry of Health will develop self-regulating mechanisms as part of their civic responsibility to their clientele, to allow their resumption. 3) The closing time for restaurants and eateries be and was hereby varied by one hour from 7 pm to 8 pm, effective 27th August 2020. 4) The nationwide curfew that was currently in force between the hours of 9 pm and 4 am daily, be and was hereby extended by a further 30 days. <p>Religious gathering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) In accordance with the recommendations of the Inter-Faith Council, the maximum number of persons permitted to attend funerals and weddings was reviewed upwards to 100, with all in attendance abiding with Ministry of Health protocols. 6) The ban on the sale of second-hand clothing, otherwise known as 'mitumba', was herewith lifted. Details of how this will be operated and the protocols for the same will be announced by the Government tomorrow. <p>Sporting events</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) The Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage and the Ministry of Health will jointly issue guidelines on the gradual resumption of sporting events in Kenya. |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 28th September 2020 (Twelfth Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic) | <p>National curfew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The nationwide curfew in force throughout the territory of the Republic of Kenya is extended for a further sixty (60) days. 2) The commencement time for the nationwide curfew is varied from 9:00 pm. to 11:00 pm. Therefore, effective tomorrow, Tuesday the 29th September 2020, the nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew will run from 11:00 o'clock at night to 4:00 o'clock in the morning. 3) The prohibition against the operation of bars and the prohibition against the sale of alcoholic drinks and beverages by ordinary restaurants and eateries to stand vacated with effect from 29th September 2020. 4) The closing time for all bars and restaurants and eateries shall be 10 pm every day with effect from 29th September 2020 and their operations to be with strict adherence to the applicable guidelines and protocols issued by the Ministry of Health. <p>Religious, social and political gathering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) In line with the recommendations of the Inter-Faith Council, the permitted maximum size of religious gatherings is increased to one third (1/3) of its normal sitting capacity, but with strict adherence to all applicable guidelines and protocols issued by the Ministry of Health. 6) The permitted maximum number of persons attending funerals and weddings was reviewed upwards from one hundred (100) to two hundred (200), but with strict adherence to all applicable guidelines and protocols issued by the Ministry of Health. <p>Taxation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) The National Treasury considers retaining VAT at 14% until 1st July 2021. 8) The National Treasury considers retaining the Income Tax Rate (Pay-As-You-Earn) at 25% until 1st January 2021. 9) The National Treasury considers retaining the Resident Income Tax (Corporation Tax) at 25% until 1st January 2021. 10) To continue cushioning low income earners, the National Treasury maintains the 100% tax relief for persons earning gross monthly income of up to Ksh 24,000 beyond the sunset date of 31st December 2020. 11) To continue cushioning Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises the National Treasury considers maintaining the reduction of the current turnover tax rate from 3% to 1% for all Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). <p>Access to finance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12) To enhance access to credit for micro, small and medium enterprises, the National Treasury was directed to expedite the ongoing roll-out of the credit guarantee scheme in partnership with participating banks and our development partners. The credit guarantee scheme as approved by Cabinet was a risk-sharing partnership between the Government and banks, which will afford our enterprises across the country access to credit and increase the amount that we can lend to this sector by an additional Ksh 100 billion. |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 04th November 2020 (Thirteenth Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic) | <p>Working from home</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All Cabinet Secretaries, Chief Administrative Secretaries and Principal Secretaries to scale-down all in-person engagements within Government and to take appropriate steps to foster the discharge of their mandates by themselves and their officers through virtual means where possible. 2) Similarly, and to protect government staffers drawn from vulnerable groups, all State and Public Officers aged above 58 years or who are immunocompromised to work remotely. With the exemption of those serving the nation in critical sectors. <p>Education sector</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) With respect to the examination classes that have already resumed learning, they continue with their learning and examination preparations under heightened health safety measures, with all other basic learning classes resuming in-person learning in January 2021. 4) To foster the State's preparedness towards the reopening of all other classes in learning institutions, Members of Parliament to engage their respective NG-CDF Boards with a view to finding ways to augment the existing interventions that are geared towards reopening. Make investments that focus on additional handwashing points, face masks, general sanitation and physical distancing of students and teachers. <p>National Curfew</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) The nationwide curfew is extended up to 3rd January 2021. 6) Beginning from 4th November, the curfew will now be enforced between 10.00 pm and 04.00 am. 7) In consequence of the variation of the 10.00 pm curfew, all bars, restaurants, and other establishments open to the public must now close by 9.00 pm. 8) In view of the restrictions within the hospitality sector, all operators of hotels, restaurants, eateries, bars and establishments that sell alcohol on wholesale or retail terms to do all that is necessary to ensure enhanced compliance with the Ministry of Health's guidelines and protocols. 9) Where there is an upsurge of COVID-19 cases in a specific county, the National Government will consult with the affected county to issue localized lockdowns and movement restrictions as may be necessary to stem the spread of the disease. <p>Religious, social and political gatherings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10) The directions governing religious gatherings remain unchanged; any indoor religious gathering other than for the purpose of a wedding or funeral shall have no more than one-third of its normal seating capacity occupied at a given sitting. 11) All Political gatherings and rallies are suspended for a period of 60 days with immediate effect. Anyone wishing to hold such meetings should do so in town halls and must observe all COVID protocols, including limiting the attendees to one-third seating capacity of the hall. 12) To enforce compliance at both the National and County level, the Ministry of Interior constitutes a Special Enforcement Unit made up of the National Police Service, National Government Administration Officers and supplemented by the County Government Inspectorate units to jointly enforce compliance to COVID protocols. |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 04th November 2020 (Thirteenth Presidential Address on coronavirus pandemic) | <p>Isolation facilities</p> <p>13) County governments to maintain isolation facilities in a state of preparedness through continuous capacity building for healthcare workers, provision of adequate PPEs for healthcare workers and continuous implementation of infection prevention and control measures and provision of piped/portable oxygen.</p> <p>Hygiene</p> <p>14) County governments and other relevant government agencies to enhance and strictly enforce all public health social measures including hand washing, social distancing and mandatory wearing of masks in public places.</p> <p>15) To enhance civic responsibility, the National and County governments resolved that going forward, services will not be rendered to anyone who does not abide by the Ministry of Health protocols. In that regard, the private sector to join the Government in the public sensitization campaign dubbed, “No mask, No service” “Bila barakoa, hakuna huduma”.</p> |

| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 3rd January 2021 | <p>National curfew</p> <p>1) The nationwide curfew extended up to 12th March 2021 to be enforced between 10.00 pm and 04.00 am daily.</p> <p>Religious, social and political gathering</p> <p>2) The general directions governing religious gatherings to remain unchanged, any indoor religious gathering other than for the purpose of a wedding or funeral, shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Inter Faith Council and with all other applicable Ministry of Health guidelines and protocols remaining in force.</p> <p>3) All forms of public events and gatherings which may act as ‘super spreader’ events for COVID-19, including political and roadside gatherings/meetings, shall remain suspended for the next 60 days; with the exception of funerals /burials and weddings, which shall only be conducted with prior approval and with the number of persons being capped at a maximum of 150 persons, and only if the particular venue can accommodate that number of persons while adhering to all applicable guidelines and protocols.</p> <p>4) All overnight vigils or events of any kind to remain prohibited.</p> <p>Isolation facilities</p> <p>5) All isolation facilities in the country shall continue to be maintained at a high state of preparedness through continuous capacity building of healthcare workers, provision of adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers, and the continuous implementation of infection prevention and control measures.</p> <p>6) The County Governments will enhance investment in piped and portable oxygen capacity in all isolation and critical care treatment facilities for the management of severe COVID-19 cases.</p> |



| Date | Policy Measures and Behavioural Protocols Formulated |
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| 3rd January 2021 | <p>Transport sector</p> <p>7) All passengers in public and private vehicles must wear masks and maintain hand hygiene at all times while within the motor vehicle; and all public service vehicles shall observe a strict 60% maximum carrying capacity limit.</p> <p>Education sector</p> <p>8) Teachers and other Staff who are aged 58 years or above, or who have pre-existing conditions shall deliver on their duties through remote means or by holding their classes/lessons in open spaces with natural flow of air.</p> <p>9) All schools shall ensure that they have adequate hand-washing stations corresponding to their student population, in line with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education; schools experiencing water problems must ensure that there is adequate availability of hand sanitizers for both the students and the teachers.</p> <p>10) All non-essential visits to schools by parents and guardians are prohibited and should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances – in fidelity with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education, with all visitors to schools being registered in the school records and being subject to all infection prevention protocols.</p> <p>11) All teachers and students shall wear appropriate facemasks when on the school premises or within school transport, in addition to strictly applying hand-hygiene and physical spacing.</p> <p>12) All extra-curricular activities such as sports, drama, music and prize giving days, involving more than one school remain prohibited for the next 90 days; and all exchange visits between schools shall remain prohibited for the same period.</p> <p>13) The Principal/Headteacher of every school shall maintain a register of all sick pupils/students or teachers, and immediately inform the County Health Department of all instances of moderate to severe illness.</p> <p>14) The County Health Departments are directed to carry out routine surveillance for COVID-19 and other public health problems in all schools; including random sampling of pupils, teachers, and ancillary staff.</p> |

Source: Office of the President Website: <https://www.president.go.ke>



A. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS

1. **The Judicial Service (Amendment) Bill, 2020** was gazetted for introduction into the National Assembly on 15th October 2020. The principal object of the Bill is to amend section 30 of the Judicial Service Act, No.1 of 2011 to insert a provision empowering the Judicial Service Commission to commence the process of recruitment of a new Chief Justice at least six months before the expected retirement date or expiry of the term of the Chief Justice under Article 167 of the Constitution.



B. SENATE BILLS

1. **The Political Party Primaries Bill, 2020** was gazetted for introduction into the Senate on 2nd October 2020. The objective of the Bill is to provide for the conduct of political party primaries nomination of party list members, and for connected purposes. It provides the political party structure for the conduct of party primaries, conduct of party primaries and offences relating to party primaries.



1. Somalia breaks off diplomatic relations with Kenya

Somalia severed diplomatic relations with Kenya in mid-December 2020 accusing Nairobi of recurrent outright violations its sovereignty and interference in internal affairs. The announcement of the severance of diplomatic ties came a day when President Muse Bihi Abdi of Somaliland (self-declared independent region of Somalia) paid a visit to Kenya on 14th December 2020. Further, Mogadishu has increasingly resented 'close' relationship between Nairobi

and President Ahmed Madobe of Somali state of Jubaland. The two countries have had frosty relationship in recent years. Interestingly, Somalia had reopened its embassy in Nairobi on 14th November 2020 in a ceremony witnessed by state officials from both Kenya and Somalia. The reopening of the diplomatic mission was hailed as historic in strengthening diplomatic relations between the two countries. The embassy was reopened ten years since Somalia won a court case against a local businessman who had illegally bought the embassy premises in 1994. On 7th-9th November 2020, Kenya delegation had paid a visit to Somalia to inspect Kenya's new embassy facility in Mogadishu and interact with Kenyan officials based at the diplomatic mission. The delegation met Somalia's state officials to discuss regional cooperation and business opportunities that exist between the two countries. The turn of events in December means that future engagement between the two neighbouring countries will require rethinking bilateral cooperation anchored on pragmatic and mutual benefits to both Nairobi and Mogadishu.



2. Top diplomats review progress on the Kenya-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue

On 22nd October 2020, Kenya's Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Ambassador Raychelle Omamo and United States Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Ambassador Tibor Nagy held a virtual consultation meeting to review the progress made on the Kenya-United States Bilateral Strategic Dialogue since its inauguration in May 2019 in Washington, DC, United States. The virtual meeting was attended by several top diplomats from both sides including United

States Ambassador to Kenya Kyle McCarter. The issues discussed include cooperation at the UN Security Council for regional peace and security and continued efforts to eliminate the Al-Shabaab militants and their threats in the region. Kenya's contribution to regional and global peace and security will be critical as the country will be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2021 and 2022. During the meeting, Ambassador Omamo appreciated United States' support in a range of areas including the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, military assistance, capacity building in border management and maritime security. Both sides also welcomed the resumption of the second round of the Free Trade Agreement negotiations between Kenya and the United States. The Bilateral Strategic Dialogue seeks to boost trade and investment ties, enhance security and defence cooperation, promote good governance and multilateral cooperation between Kenya and the United States.





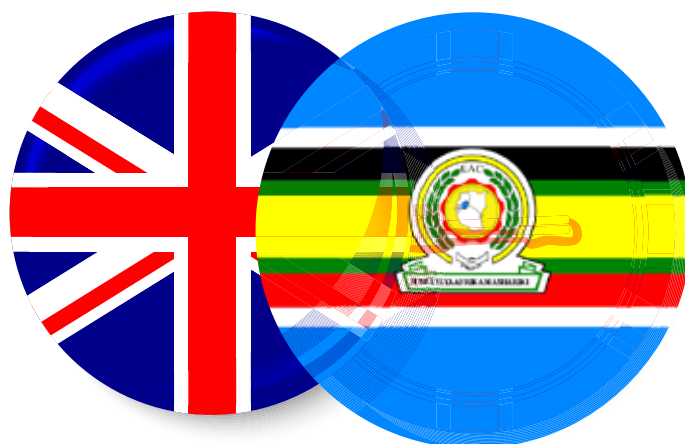
East African Standby Force faces financial constraints

The East African Standby Force (EASF) might face limitations to fulfil its mandate due to financial constraints as only two member countries have submitted their contribution, which leaves the organization reliant on donor funding. During the 28th Ordinary Session of EASF's Policy Organs meeting held in Kigali Rwanda on 14th -18th December 2020, the director of EASF Brigadier-General Getachew Shiferaw Fayisa observed that limited funding

could jeopardise EASF's activities and goals. The mandate of EASF is to enhance peace and security in the Eastern African region, with membership drawn from Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Currently, South Sudan enjoys observer status in the regional organization. EASF is a regional mechanism to provide capability for rapid deployment of forces to carry out preventive deployment, rapid intervention, peace support/stability operations and peace enforcement. EASF is one of the five regional multidimensional forces of the African Standby Force under the African Union. Others include Northern Standby Brigade (NARC) Western Africa Standby Brigade (ECOWAS) Central African Standby Brigade (ECCAS) and Southern Africa Standby Brigade (SADC).

Kenya and Ethiopia commit to boost trade and joint infrastructure projects

The official launch of the Moyale one-stop border post (OSBP) on 9th December 2020 by President Uhuru Kenyatta and Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is expected to increase trade between Kenya and Ethiopia. Apart from trade facilitation, the OSBP will enhance mutual interactions of citizens from the two countries and boost tourism. The



two leaders committed to boost trade by reducing trade barriers and jointly funding projects. President Kenyatta and Prime Minister Abiy also inspected the Lamu Port, stressing the need to prioritize funding of the Lamu Port-South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor that will be critical in connecting Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan. The port is likely to be commissioned by October 2021. The leaders also committed to completion of road network to boost intra-trade in the region. The completion of the LAPSSET projects will not only boost regional trade but will also open northern Kenya for faster development as the infrastructure will unlock the region's potential. Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) can position itself to benefit from Moyale OSBP and LAPSSET. FCDC is one of the seven county economic blocs in Kenya. FCDC member counties include Lamu, Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana, West Pokot and Baringo.



A market and advocacy analysis of various core products in the Eastern and Central Africa

KIPPRA is undertaking a consultancy study for Fairtrade Africa, which is an Independent non-profit organization representing members who are certified producers in Africa with over 1,083,139 members across 28 countries in Africa. The main purpose of this study is to identify and document country and regional level advocacy and policy that influence priorities for Fairtrade core products such as coffee in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia; Tea in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda and Flowers in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. The goal is to provide Fairtrade Africa with the best practices that have been proved to produce best results locally and globally with an aim to accelerate delivery of producer support services and advocacy interventions for socio-economic development in East and Central Africa Network region (ECAN).

County COVID-19 socio-economic recovery and re-engineering strategies

The Council of Governors (CoG) commissioned KIPPRA to develop the County COVID-19 Socio-Economic Re-engineering and Recovery Strategies. This was in response to unfolding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic with the first confirmed case in Kenya reported on 13th March 2020. The scope of the work was to develop a comprehensive report with concrete proposals on county social economic recovery that will guide county governments in adapting, re-engineering and recovering from the impacts of COVID-19. This is necessitated by the need for a well-coordinated, demand-driven and county-specific needs-based response per sector. This study has since been concluded with a launch of the overall County COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery and Re-engineering Strategy by H.E. the President on Friday 4th December, 2020.

Assessment of structures and profitability of milk distribution and retailing in Kenya

Kenya Dairy Board has commissioned KIPPRA to undertake an Assessment of Structures and Profitability of Milk Distribution and Retailing in Kenya. The study seeks to identify structures (pathways) and profitability margins for the various stakeholders involved in distribution and retailing of milk in Kenya. The main objective is to assess the structures and profitability in distribution and retailing of processed milk in Kenya. Additionally, the study will cover the distribution and retailing network, between the factory and presentation of products to the consumer at retail level. This will cover UHT and pasteurized milk, in major urban centres of Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kisumu and Eldoret.



Impact of power outages on industries in Kenya

KIPPRA is undertaking a study on “Impact of power outages on industries in Kenya” a request from the Kenya Association of Manufacturers. The study focuses on the power outages in industries and its impact on production cost and tracking production costs trends versus cost of goods at ex-factory price for the last five years. Access to reliable and modern energy sources is fundamental for growth of the industrial sector and is a key input for all goods produced or services. Currently, the project team is collecting data from various firms in the country. The results of the study will inform improvements towards reliable power by the manufacturing firms.

Designing development of an integrated demand forecasting tool for petroleum products

KIPPRA is developing an integrated demand-forecasting tool for petroleum products for Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA). The tool will be expected to forecast the consumption of regulated petroleum products in Kenya in the short and long term, including that of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). Therefore, KIPPRA aims to develop a universally accepted demand forecasting tool for petroleum products customized to the Kenyan petroleum sub-sector. The oil price forecasts will play an important role in assessing the future developments of pipelines, storage facilities, common user petroleum and gas facilities among others, and also other economic activities in Kenya and its trading partners, with implications for the country’s terms of trade.

Kenya National Leather Policy

KIPPRA is working with the Kenya Leather Development Council (KLDC) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives to develop the first Kenya National Leather Policy. The formulation of the policy is evidence-based, including review of past and existing interventions to appreciate historical development of the sector with the aim of identifying constraints and opportunities. Insights to inform the policy are also drawn from analysis of the sector’s data and review of experiences from other countries that have successfully transformed the leather sector into a major source of employment, exports, and income generation. The analysis of policy actors and their roles will also guide in identifying constraints and opportunities, and clear responsibilities for implementation of the policy interventions once its approved.



Poverty and distributional effects of COVID-19 on households in Kenya

KIPPRA, in partnership with the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), finalized a study on *Poverty and distributional effects of COVID-19 on households in Kenya* – induced lockdowns and the fiscal costs of offsetting these consequences. The research used detailed country-level household survey data to estimate the loss of income that these lockdowns cause across the income distribution; the increase in poverty brought about by the income losses; and an estimate of the government expenditure that would be necessary to offset that increase in poverty. The work is published in the AERC Working Paper Series.

Assessing the scope of industries without smokestacks to create jobs in Kenya

KIPPRA, in partnership with the Brookings Institution, finalized a study titled: “*Assessing the scope of industries without smokestacks to create jobs: Kenya case study report*”. These emerging sectors include services such as tourism and information and communication technology and horticulture and agro-processing. These sectors/sub-sectors are collectively referred to as industries without smokestacks (IWOSS) to differentiate them from manufacturing. This Kenya case study examines, in a comparative manner, the role of these IWOSS sectors in creating jobs for the youth.

The domestic savings shortfall in Sub-Saharan Africa: What can be done about it?

KIPPRA in collaboration with UNU-WIDER is working on a book on savings titled “*The domestic savings shortfall in Sub-Saharan Africa: What can be done about it?*” This is motivated by the need to increase domestic savings rates in Sub-Saharan Africa for economic growth to be realized. The book intends to close a gap in knowledge about: drivers of domestic saving rates in Sub-Saharan Africa; whether alternative approaches, such as pension funds or fintech, could provide new solutions to increase domestic savings; and lessons learnt from the experiences so far in different countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and other regions which have been more successful in raising savings rates. The findings of the research will be in tandem to the Addis Ababa action agenda of the United Nations on financing for development, which provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.

KIPPRA EVENTS



Induction of new KIPPRA Board Directors

On 19th October 2020, new Board of Directors who had joined the Institute in the year were taken through an induction process by the management staff. They were given an overview of the Institute's structure, strategic plan, workplan and performance contract targets and the staff capacities for the departments.

The new Board Directors included: Dr. Fred Simiyu, Alternate, Principal Secretary, Trade; Mr. Samuel Gitau, Alternate, Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury; Dr. Chris Galgallo Ali an educationist with extensive experience in educational management; and Ms Phoebe Ann Nkaabu, communications specialist with eleven years' experience in the communication sector. The workshop was graced by the Chairperson of the KIPPRA Board Dr Linda Musumba, and the Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi.

Insightful discussions at two-day researcher's workshop

KIPPRA conducted a two-day researchers' workshop on 19th and 20th November 2020 to discuss various issues aimed at streamlining public policy research and analysis activities and processes. The workshop began with a presentation of key issues identified while reviewing research papers. Among the issues highlighted included identification and development of a quality concept for a research study; putting together a methodology; effective delivery of contracted work, which included budgeting, taxation and project management; developing key policy messages and the use of government language; preparing a presentation; effective communication with and through the media; and the use of KIPPRA's house style manual.

These key areas formed the subject of presentations and trainings by various facilitators which included Prof. Victor Murinde, Founding Director of the Research Centre for Global Finance, at the School of Finance and Management, SOAS University of London who delivered his training virtually; Mr Jamshed Ali, KIPPRA Board Director; Mr. Bernard Mwinzi, Managing Editor, Weekend Editions at Nation Media Group; Dr Othieno Nyanjom, a researcher in development studies; and Dr Rose Ngugi, Executive Director, KIPPRA.

Capacity Building events

a) New cohort of Young Professionals

On 5th October 2020, the Institute welcomed a new cohort of Young Professionals (YPs). A total of 20 Young Professionals were admitted to the programme. During the quarter, the Young Professionals underwent various capacity building courses, which include: Governance Structures in a Devolved System of Government (GSDSG); Public Policy Making Process (PPMP); Applied Research Methods and Tools for Policy Analysis.

The YP programme is KIPPRA's flagship programme, which has been running since 2003 and admits 10-14 young professionals from the public and private sector for a one-year rigorous training. Among the key qualifications for admission include a Master's degree. The programme targets to enhance the technical competence in evidence-based policy process, build research capabilities of participants, enlighten on the scope, relationships and procedures in governance structure in both national and county level, introduce participants to economic tools of analysis and provide practical experience in the policy making process.

b) Graduation of the 17th cohort of Young Professionals

On 23rd October 2020, KIPPRA held a graduation ceremony for the 2019/2020 cohort of Young Professionals (YPs) celebrating their achievements and completion of their one-year intensive programme. The ceremony was graced by KIPPRA Board of Directors led by the Chairperson, Dr Linda Musumba and Executive Director, Dr Rose Ngugi. The event started with academic procession and later a panel discussion where YPs shared their experience of the programme. In her speech, Dr Linda Musumba urged the YPs to contribute to the policy options to solve the current challenges affecting the country. Dr Rose Ngugi, on her part, underscored the importance of the programme in contributing to the achievement of the national development goals through developing capacities in public policy research and analysis. The event was concluded with award of certificates to the graduands and later the current cohort of YPs entertained the guests with songs and dance.

Engagement with Stakeholders

a) County on-job-support forums on children, youth, women and PWDs sensitive planning and budgeting

During the period, 1st to 11th December 2020, KIPPRA, in collaboration with the National Treasury, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Council of Governors, County Assemblies Forum, UNICEF, UN Women and UNDP held county on-job-support forums. The forums were held in Nakuru, Kisumu, Isiolo, Kirinyaga, Machakos and Mombasa counties, bringing together senior county officials from all the 47 counties. Discussions on how to have a standalone budget for children, youth and women was advanced and technical assistance to senior county staff was provided to enable them implement recommendations of the county budget briefs on children, youth and gender-sensitive planning and budgeting. This is aimed at strengthening linkages between spending and the performance of key outcome indicators in socio-economic well-being. In addition, were recommendations from the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) reports, poverty profiles and county recovery strategies developed by KIPPRA to support counties in improving service delivery. The forums concluded with signing of the county commitment assessment tool by counties. The tool will enable KIPPRA and its partners to monitor social sectors, nutrition, health and early childhood development education budget execution. This will enable counties to meet the needs of children, youth, PWDs and women.



b) Launch of COVID-19 county socio-economic re-engineering and recovery strategy

On 4th December 2020, KIPPRA participated in the launch of the COVID-19 County Socio-economic Re-engineering and Recovery Strategy. The event was graced by His Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta. This was a culmination of collaborative work between KIPPRA and the Council of Governors in developing the Strategy. The Ksh 132 billion recovery plan has five pillars, namely boosting private sector activity; strengthening ICT capacity; human capital development; policy, legislative and institutional reforms; and strengthening county government's preparedness and response to pandemics and disasters. The strategy prioritizes agriculture, water and sanitation, urban development and housing, transport, tourism, health, education, social protection and gender as anchor sectors that will help counties recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Networking Events

a) The T20 Summit Saudi Arabia

On 31st October to 1st November 2020, KIPPRA participated in the T20 Summit which was held as the capstone event for T20 Saudi Arabia. The virtual Summit gathered world-leading thinkers, civil society organizations, and international institutions to discuss the latest research-based policy recommendations and matters of global importance. KIPPRA was represented by the Board Chair, Dr Linda Musumba, who was a panelist in the session on building systemic, integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to youth policy.

b) Emerging enterprises and economic inclusion

On 5th November 2020, KIPPRA in partnership with the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) of South Africa, co-organized a webinar on emerging enterprises and economic inclusion in Africa. The Head of Private Sector Development Department, Dr Moses Njenga made a presentation on behalf of the Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi. The presentation focused on the description, importance, size, characteristics and constraints of informal enterprises, including trends on informal and formal employment and policy interventions. Some of the policy priorities discussed included the need to address heterogeneity of the sector, exclusion to formal financing, and access to technology.

c) 7th Africa Think Tank Summit – Implementing the AfCFTA: Assessing country readiness and the implications for capacity building

On 18th-19th November 2020, KIPPRA participated in the African Think Tank Summit organized by the ACBF. The Institute was represented by the Executive Director who was a speaker in the session on *The role of Think Tanks in supporting the implementation of the AfCFTA*.

d) World Aids Day commemoration

KIPPRA staff and management joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Aids Day on 1st December 2020, albeit virtually. The ceremony gave an opportunity to KIPPRA staff to understand the objectives and achievements in the fight against HIV/AIDS and get an in-depth knowledge of the prevention and management of the disease. This year's World Aids Day was dedicated to raising awareness about HIV/AIDS and remembering those who have lost their lives to complications of HIV.

The staff were also taken through the procedures of dealing with stigma and human rights issues, and disclosure and testing protocols. The ceremony was concluded with the sensitization of staff on non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, stress management and mental health.





Staff pose for a group photo during the commemoration of World Aids Day.

e) **Virtual 2020 Africa Think Tank Summit -Think Tanks and policy advice in a world disrupted and transformed**

On 4th December 2020, KIPPR participated in the virtual 2020 Africa Think Tank Summit organized by Think Tank and Civil Societies Programme, University of Pennsylvania. The Summit brought together executives and leaders of various think tanks in Africa. KIPPR was represented by the Executive Director Dr Rose Ngugi who was part of panel discussing solutions to the social and economic crises caused by COVID-19.

Upcoming activities in the January-March 2021 quarter

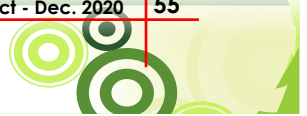
- KIPPR Day

“KIPPR Day” is planned for 12th March 2021. This is an event to provide a platform to engage with its stakeholders and showcase its various products and services. The day will also be used to launch the Public Policy Repository in fulfillment of one of the Institute’s core mandate. The repository is an open access platform where all public policy documents can be accessed.
- Kenya Think Tank symposium

The 2021 Kenya Think Tanks symposium

KIPPR is planning to participate in the 2021 Kenya Think Tanks symposium on 30th March 2021. The symposium is a one-day event, which seeks to bring together various policy Think Tanks to debate and elicit policy dialogue and encourage multisectoral exchange of ideas and discussion on a central policy issue.





ABOUT KIPPRA

The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) is an autonomous institute whose primary mission is to conduct public policy research leading to policy advice. KIPPRA's mission is to produce consistently high-quality analysis of key issues of public policy and to contribute to the achievement of national long-term development objectives by positively influencing the decision making process. These goals are met through effective dissemination of recommendations resulting from analysis and by training policy analysts in the public and private sectors. KIPPRA therefore produces a body of well-researched and documented information on public policy, and in the process assists in formulating long-term strategic perspectives. KIPPRA serves as a centralized source from which the Government and the private sector may obtain information and advice on public policy issues.

KIPPRA acknowledges generous support from the Government of Kenya and the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) of IDRC. The TTI is a collaborative initiative of Hewlett Foundation, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and other partners. Other organizations are welcome to contribute to KIPPRA research either as core support, or support to specific projects, by contacting the Executive Director, KIPPRA.

Send to us your comments on the articles published in this newsletter and any other aspects that may help to make the *KIPPRA Policy Monitor* useful to you. This may include policy issues you would like KIPPRA to prioritize.



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