



## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

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

*Fellow Kenyans,*

*Members of the Press,*

#### Introduction

- 1) In the last one month, we note that there has been a decline in the COVID-19 reported cases across the Country.
- 2) The recent wave had adverse effects not only on the health sector but also on our economy and it left many Kenyans in a lot of suffering. On behalf of the Council of Governors, we would like to convey our heartfelt condolences to families, friends and those who have lost their loved ones from this pandemic.
- 3) The decline however does not mean that we are out of the woods. This should encourage us to continue adhering to the health guidelines and protocols so as to reduce the positivity rate to the WHO recommended rate which is **below 5%**. We have done it before, we can do it now.

#### County Status on COVID -19

Thus far, **forty seven (47)** County Governments have addressed themselves to the following critical issues:

## 1. Bed capacity

Currently, a total of **1,297 COVID-19 patients** are admitted in various health facilities across the country. Of importance to note is that since the last statement issued, bed capacity has gone up as a result of admission of less patients as follows:

- **ICU beds** – Cumulatively, there are **570 ICU beds** across all the Counties. Currently, **87 beds** are occupied which is **16%** of the total number of beds. There are **483 ICU beds** available in the Counties.
- **HDU beds** – Cumulatively, there are **383 HDU beds** in the facilities. Currently, **65 beds** are occupied which is **17%** of the total number of beds. There are **318 HDU beds** available in the facilities.
- **Isolation beds** – There is a total of **9,817 beds** in Isolation facilities. Currently, **1,145 beds** are occupied, which is **12%** of the total number of beds. There are **8,672 isolation beds** available in the facilities.

## 2. Oxygen Capacity

We note that there is still high demand for medical oxygen for patients who require critical care. In the last one month, **20 Counties** have reported being overstretched especially during the peak of the forth wave witnessed in August 2021.

We wish to applaud the National Government and Development Partners for complementing the efforts by the County Governments in enhancing provision of medical oxygen.

We however urge the National Government to fast track the formulation of a responsive framework for management of medical oxygen. Further, we implore Counties to closely monitor their

stocks of medical oxygen cylinders and release empty cylinders for use by facilities in greater need.

### 3. Testing

As earlier stated, we note that the infection rate of COVID-19 virus has reduced across the Counties. According to the Daily Situation Report of **28<sup>th</sup> September 2021**, the infection rate stands at **4%**. In the last one week with **3,005** people tested positive for the virus out of **41,220** tests conducted across 47 County Governments.

We wish to report that the following 8 Counties are conducting less than **100 tests** in a week:

- **TransNzoia,**
- **West Pokot,**
- **Samburu,**
- **Wajir,**
- **Tharaka Nithi,**
- **Lamu,**
- **Kwale and;**
- **Bomet**

Further, testing remains high in the following major towns:

- **Nairobi,**
- **Nakuru,**
- **Mombasa,**
- **Machakos and;**
- **Busia**

These areas are witnessing more than **1,500 tests** in a week. We urge the residents of these Counties to continue adhering to the COVID-19 protocols so as to flatten the curve.

### 4. COVID-19 Vaccination

Counties have continued to collaborate with the National Government and partners towards the deployment of multiple COVID-19 vaccines.

As we are aware, **Moderna, Johnson and Johnson (J&J), Pfizer, Sinopharm and AstraZeneca** vaccines are available countrywide. A total of **6,353,820 vaccines** have so far been received.



Specifically, access to vaccines has now been enhanced by increasing the vaccine candidates and quantities available for distribution.

Towards supporting acceleration of the vaccination process, County Governments have identified target populations and articulated their needs in County specific micro-plans as well as undertaken further training of health workers.

Additionally, **3,613,357 (57%)** of the doses received have already been utilized and **3.3%** of the target adult population is currently fully vaccinated.

We acknowledge that the uptake of the vaccine has varied across Counties and there have been delays in some Counties. In this regard, County Governments have revitalized their efforts through increased advocacy campaigns and outreaches so to enhance vaccine uptake by the citizens.

## **5. Home-based care**

As at **28<sup>th</sup> September 2021**, there were **4,438** patients under home-based isolation care across the **47 Counties**.

We urge all asymptomatic patients to continue working with the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) in the implementation of the home-based guidelines.

## **6. Provision of COVID-19 medical supplies**

We laud the recent move by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to authorise reduction of prices of COVID-19 medical supplies such as **PPE kits, thermometers, and hand sanitisers**, that were procured and held at KEMSA warehouses since last year.

While this has set in motion generation of orders for the supplies by County Governments, we urge MOH to further subsidise the prices offered to truly reflect the current market prices.

Further, we appeal to KEMSA not to withhold these critical supplies on the basis of outstanding debts and allow County Governments amicable time to clear the pending bills.

### **NON-COVID RELATED ISSUES**

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Let me now address you on some of non-COVID-19 related issues:-

#### **i. Food and drought situation in the Counties**

According to the food balance sheet by the Ministry of Agriculture, it is projected that the Country has a stable supply of the main cereals and pulses up to **May 2022**.

We however note that, the current drought situation in the country continues to threaten the livelihoods of Kenyans especially in ASAL Counties.

The following 10 Counties have been listed as high risk Counties;

- **Isiolo,**
- **Garissa,**
- **Kilifi,**
- **Kitui,**
- **Mandera,**
- **Marsabit,**
- **Samburu,**
- **Tana River,**
- **Turkana and;**
- **Wajir**

Currently, over **2 million Kenyans** require immediate food aid and support. With the declaration of drought being a national disaster, the affected County Governments have set aside **Kshs. 1.24 billion** to support drought emergency operations. Additionally, Counties have set up Emergency Drought Steering Committees that will implement drought contingency plans.

In view of the notice by the Kenya Meteorological Department on short rains, it is expected that the drought situation in these Counties will worsen.

We therefore urge the affected Counties to heighten their surveillance, response and mitigation measures.

We also call upon the Ministry of Devolution and ASALS (MODA), development partners and the private sector to continue partnering with the affected Counties so as to safeguard livelihoods of the aforementioned ASAL Counties.

**ii. Disbursements of County Equitable Share and expenditure**

We acknowledge the disbursement of funds by the National Treasury to County Governments for the **FY 2021/22**, for the months of **July and August** amounting to **Ksh. 61.05 Billion**.

We note with concern that County Governments are yet to receive disbursements for the month of **September** amounting to **Ksh 31.45 Billion** which was due on **15<sup>th</sup> September 2021**.

We urge the National Treasury to expedite the release of these funds to allow Counties to respond promptly to critical issues such as: **COVID-19, drought, payment of pending bills and implementation of development plans.**



## Conclusion

The Council of Governors supports the call by the Ministry of Health to ensure that **5.8 Million** Kenyans are fully vaccinated by **20<sup>th</sup> October 2021** which will be the **58<sup>th</sup> Mashujaa Day!**

This will bring us closer to our national target of **10 Million** which should be attained by the end of this year.

Asanteni Sana!

Signed



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