

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



TWELFTH PARLIAMENT (FOURTH SESSION)

THE SENATE

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 SITUATION IN KENYA

.....
8TH PROGRESS REPORT

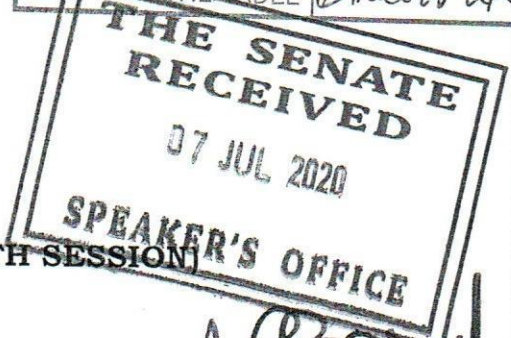
**Thematic Area 4: Access to Food, Water and Other Essential
Commodities**

Thematic Area 5: Support Services and Cross-Cutting Issues
.....

*Clerk's Chambers,
First Floor,
Parliament Buildings,
NAIROBI.*

7TH JULY, 2020

PAPERS LAID	
DATE	07/07/2020
TABLED BY	Arampasire
COMMITTEE	COVID-19
CLERK AT THE TABLE	Director WPC



PREFACE

Mr. Speaker,

The Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID-19 Situation was established by the Senate on Tuesday, 31st March, 2020, with the mandate to oversight actions and measures taken by the national and county governments in addressing the spread and effects of COVID-19 in Kenya.

The Committee is mandated to address the following, among other matters-

- (a) provision of testing and medical equipment, including adequate ventilators in referral hospitals and in at least one public hospital in each county;
- (b) provision of adequate isolation centres and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) facilities in each county;
- (c) measures to ensure continuous supply of food and other essential commodities at affordable prices;
- (d) measures to enable learners in educational institutions to continue with their studies;
- (e) measures to ensure protection, safety and well-being of healthcare and other frontline workers;
- (f) enhancement of capacity and flexible deployment of healthcare staff;
- (g) financial assistance to vulnerable persons and groups;
- (h) protection of residential and commercial tenants;
- (i) establishment of a stimulus package for the Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises;
- (j) easing of legislative and regulatory requirements for doing business;
- (k) measures to protect employees from retrenchment and job losses; and
- (l) uniform policies and procedures aimed at slowing and eventually stopping the spread of the virus.

The Committee is comprised of the following members: -

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1) Sen. Johnson Sakaja, CBS, MP | - Chairperson |
| 2) Sen. (Arch.) Sylvia Mueni Kasanga, MP | - Vice Chairperson |
| 3) Sen. (Dr.) Michael Maling'a Mbiti, MP | - Member |
| 4) Sen. Abshiro Soka Halake, MP | - Member |
| 5) Sen. Mithika Linturi, MP | - Member |
| 6) Sen. Erick Okong'o Mogeni, SC, MP | - Member |
| 7) Sen. Mwinyihaji Mohamed Faki, MP | - Member |

Mr. Speaker,

The 8th Progress Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID-19 Situation comes at the half-way point of the Committee's six-month mandate. Having been set up by the Senate on 31st March, 2020, the Committee has been in existence for three months now and is expected to submit its final report to the Senate by 30th September, 2020.

Mr. Speaker, during the last 3 months, the Committee has: -

- a) **Held a total of seventy (70) sittings**, of which sixty-five (65) have been held virtually, and five (5) have been physical sittings. The Committee was the first to implement the Directive by the Honourable Speaker of the Senate, issued on 30th March, 2020, for Committees to hold virtual as opposed to physical sittings, as a preventative measure against the spread of COVID-19.
- b) **Met all the key stakeholders** identified at the initial stage, and is now on the second phase of engagement with stakeholders. The stakeholders included Cabinet Secretaries; the Council of Governors; the County Assemblies Forum; constitutional commissions and independent offices; various departments and agencies of the national government; front line health care workers and their union representatives; the private sector; employers' associations; trade unions; civil society; business owners, representing both manufacturers, as well as micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); experts in various thematic areas, such public finance and budgeting; women and youth groups, among others.

The Committee further invited written submissions from members of the public on the five thematic areas under consideration by the Committee and received over **one hundred and sixty-five (165) submissions** in this regard.

During the second phase of engagement, the Committee continues to track measures proposed and under implementation by the national and county governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notably, during this phase, the Committee plans to shift from purely virtual engagement with stakeholders, to actual site visits and verification of the information submitted to the Committee. This is to ensure that the national and county governments are held accountable in implementation of the respective COVID-19 interventions.

- c) Published the **Pandemic Response and Management Bill (Senate Bill No. 6 of 2020)**, which completed the legislative process in the Senate on Tuesday, 30th June, 2020 and was referred to the National Assembly for its concurrence.

During consideration of the Bill, the Committee received an additional **sixty-three (63) submissions** from diverse stakeholders, and held virtual engagements with key actors, such as the Federation of Kenya Employers and the Law Society of Kenya. The comments received greatly enriched the content of the Bill, with the Committee proposing various amendments that were incorporated at Committee stage.

- d) Considered a total of **eight (8) Senators' requests for statements**, under standing orders 47(1) and 48(1) of the Senate Standing Orders, and reported back to the Senate of each of these statements.
- e) Undertaken **fact finding visits to two (2) counties**, namely Isiolo and Meru Counties, where the Committee evaluated the level of county COVID-19 preparedness and response. These visits enabled the Committee to interact first-hand with the respective County COVID-19 Emergency Response Committees in the two Counties; engage with the Members of the County Assemblies of Isiolo and Meru, particularly their respective Health Committees; meet with front-line health care workers and listen to their grievances and feedback; engage community leaders and civil society representatives, particularly on ensuring transparency and accountability in implementation of COVID-19 interventions at the county level; and visit the COVID-19 treatment and isolation facilities in the two Counties.

As mentioned earlier, the Committee plans to undertake further visits in the coming weeks to selected Counties across all regions of the country. This is to not only get first hand practical accounts of what is happening on the ground, but also to document the interventions undertaken and their impact, which will help the country even in dealing with future pandemics, epidemics or disasters.

- f) Considered and **tabled a total of eight (8) Progress Reports**, in addition to **two (2) statements by the Chairperson** under Standing Order 51(1). The reports by the Committee have covered in detail the Committee engagements with stakeholders, as well as its observations and recommendations to the Senate. These reports have been debated and

adopted by the Senate, and the Committee is following up with the national and county governments to ensure implementation of the Senate resolutions thereon.

The reports tabled so far have covered the first three thematic areas, namely Health Issues; Economic and Finance Issues; and Social, Public Order and Human Rights, respectively. This 8th Progress Report covers the remaining two thematic areas, namely Access to Food, Water, and other Basic Commodities; and Support Services and Cross-Cutting Issues, respectively.

Mr. Speaker,

In relation to the thematic area Four on **Access to Food, Water and Other Essential Commodities**, the Committee deliberated extensively on issues relating to ensuring the continuous supply of food and other essential commodities at affordable prices; measures to control plant and livestock diseases to ensure continuity in food production; and access to water and other essential commodities.

In this regard, the Committee met with the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives; the Water Service Providers Association (WASPA); and the Nairobi Metropolitan Services. The Committee further considered written submissions from the Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation; as well as other diverse stakeholders who presented written submissions to the Committee.

Mr. Speaker,

Based on its analysis of the written memoranda received from members of the public, and on the submissions made by the key stakeholders in the thematic area, the Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID-19 Situation has made preliminary observations and recommendations, which are detailed at Chapter Four of the Report. Allow me however to highlight the following: -

- a) The Committee commends the early measures taken by the national and county governments to ensure the continued production and distribution of food commodities across the country. Among these was the creation of a Food Security Wall Room (FSWR), at the Ministry of Agriculture, that was

continuously monitoring farm inputs supply and consolidation of emerging issues for appropriate action by concerned institutions/ agencies.

These measures ensured that food prices have remained relatively stable, despite the interruption of inter-country supply chains for some essential commodities.

- b) Among the risks identified to sustained food production and distribution were hazards such as flooding and desert locust invasion; restriction in movement and impassable roads due to heavy rains; and low purchasing power as a result of loss of livelihoods for some households. The impact of these factors has not been as extensive as was projected.

Additionally, the food distribution measures targeting vulnerable communities and families, as put in place by the national and county governments, as well as by the private sector, community groups, and individuals, have greatly worked to ensure that we have not experienced loss of lives due to hunger during the pandemic. The Committee greatly commends all organizations and individuals who have been involved in these efforts.

- c) One of the early interventions by the Committee was on the question of transportation, distribution, and sale of Miraa produce across the country, which was hampered by actions taken by some county governments to impound and destroy the crop.

Following Committee engagements with officials of the national and county governments, the crop was included in the schedule of essential commodities that could be transported and sold during the pandemic. Consequently, the Ministry of Agriculture developed protocols and guidelines that have been followed in ensuring that producers, traders, and consumers of the crop can continue in business, while taking precautions against the spread of COVID-19.

- d) On the issue of access to water, the Committee noted that Water Service Providers (WSPs) across the country have been greatly impacted by COVID-19, as a result of reduced billing collections, coupled with measures to not disconnect consumers in default. The Committee urges the national and county governments to put in place targeted interventions to support the continued operations of these WSPs, to ensure their continued operations

during and beyond the pandemic. Notably, the Committee recommends that the following measures be taken in the short term: -

- i) That the national government introduces a preferential electricity tariff for WSPs, from the current tariff of Kshs 15- 22/Kwh, to a tariff similar to that of street lighting, which is charged at Kshs 7/Kwh;
 - ii) That the national government zero rates the purchase of chemicals and other essential supplies for water treatment, supply, and distribution; and
 - iii) That the national and county governments waive various fees and levies charged on provision of water and sanitation services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- e) The Committee further noted and commends the measures taken by the Nairobi Metropolitan Services to drill 93 boreholes and install elevated steel water tanks in Nairobi City County, as well as the purchase of 22 water bowzers. These have greatly improved on the availability of clean water for drinking and sanitation, particularly in the low-income settlements across Nairobi.

Mr. Speaker,

In relation to the thematic area Five on **Support Services and Cross-Cutting Issues**, the Committee deliberated on issues relating to awareness creation on measures to prevent COVID-19 infection and combat stigmatization; and the provision of internet and connectivity services to support working and learning from home.

In this regard, the Committee met with the Cabinet Secretary for ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, who was accompanied by heads of various departments and agencies under the Ministry; the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANET); as well as youth organizations, including Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Youth and Governance Kenya (YGK) and Maisha Youth Network.

Mr. Speaker,

Based on its analysis of the written memoranda received from members of the public, and on the submissions made by the key stakeholders in this thematic area, the Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID-19 Situation has made a number

of observations and recommendations, which are detailed at Chapter Four of the Report. I will proceed to highlight the following: -

- a) At the initial stage of the pandemic, the messaging by various players was quite disjointed, and this affected how the pandemic was perceived by ordinary citizens. One of the first interventions that the Committee took up was the issue of detaining, in officially designated quarantine facilities, of people who were found breaking the curfew directives.

The impact of this was two-fold: first, it criminalized persons who were placed in quarantine facilities arising from contact tracing, as these facilities then became associated with law-breakers. Secondly, it unnecessarily exposed those found breaking the curfew to COVID-19 infection, by placing them in the same facilities with those who were placed there out of having been in contact with COVID-19 positive cases.

The Committee is glad to report that, following its intervention, this practice was stopped, whereby the Inspector-General of Police was directed to identify alternative facilities where those breaking the law could be detained, which were separate from those where those who had come into contact with COVID-19 were accommodated.

- b) There was also a gap, at the time, in messaging tools targeted at specific audiences, particularly children and the youth. The Committee notes that this has since been rectified, with the use of age-appropriate media such as posters, animation, cartoons, and the use of vernacular languages, as well as the incorporation of religious leaders and community elders in COVID-19 messaging.
- c) The Committee noted and lauds the measure taken by the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, to launch a design challenge aimed at promoting uptake of ICT-based innovative responses to COVID-19.
- d) On the issue of telemedicine, which has grown rapidly during the pandemic, the Committee notes the need to ensure data protection in the collection, use and storage of health records, tracking and geo-location of suspected COVID-19 cases.

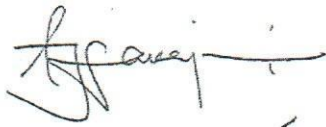
There are a few other technology related recommendations, which the Committee will be forwarding to the Standing Committee on ICT for follow up on implementation.

Mr. Speaker,

As I conclude, the Committee wishes to thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Senate for the support extended to it in undertaking this important assignment.

Further the Committee continues to thank the members of the public and stakeholders, including Senators, who have continued to engage with the Committee in carrying out its work.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.



Signed.....

7th July, 2020

Date.....

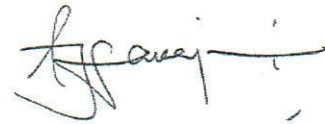
**SEN. JOHNSON SAKAJA, CBS, MP,
CHAIRPERSON,
SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19**

ADOPTION OF THE 8TH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 SITUATION IN KENYA

We, the undersigned Members of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID-19 Situation in Kenya, do hereby append our signatures to adopt the 8th Progress Report-

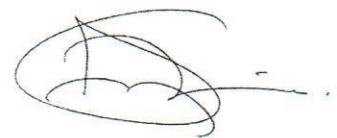
Sen. Johnson Sakaja, CBS, MP

-Chairperson



Sen. (Arch.) Sylvia Kasanga, MP

-Vice-Chairperson



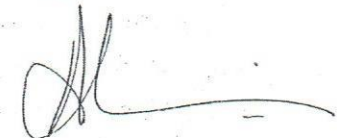
Sen. (Dr.) Michael Mbiti, MP

-Member



Sen. Abshiro Soka Halake, MP

-Member



Sen. Mithika Linturi, MP

-Member



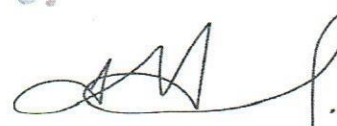
Sen. Erick Okong'o Mogeni, SC, MP

-Member



Sen. Mwinyihaji Mohamed Faki, MP

-Member



CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

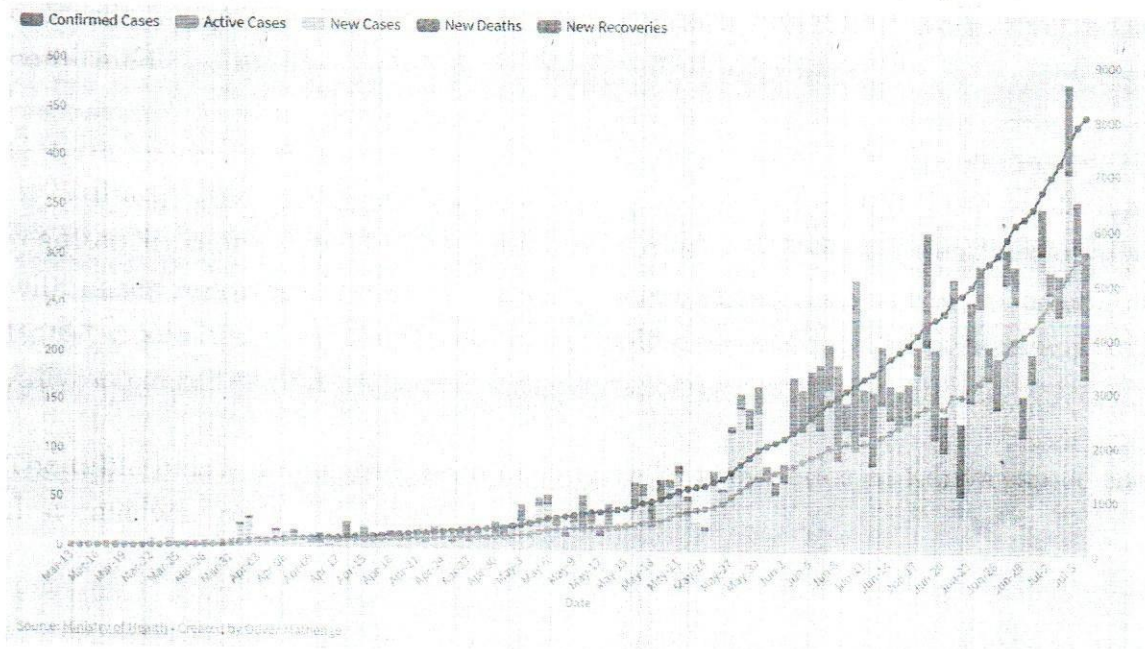
1. Background to the COVID-19

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). A novel coronavirus (CoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

Coronaviruses are common in animals and, occasionally, people get infected with these viruses which may then spread to other people. For example, SARS-CoV was associated with civet cats and MERS-CoV was associated with dromedary camels. Possible animal sources of COVID-19 have not yet been confirmed.

Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new respiratory illness that began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. As of 6th June 2020, the virus had resulted in more than 11.5 million infections and 535,000 deaths globally, with cases reported on every continent except Antarctica. In Kenya, a total of **8,067 cases** had been confirmed, by the said date, with **2,414** patients having fully recovered, and **134** patients having succumbed to the illness.

The table below shows the trend of COVID-19 prevalence in Kenya, since the first case was reported on 13th March, 2020.¹



¹ <https://www.the-star.co.ke/covid-19/2020-04-15-infographic-the-trend-of-covid-19-in-kenya/>

The COVID-19, which has since been declared a global health pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), can easily be spread from person to person, through contact with droplets produced by a person who is sneezing or coughing or contaminated surfaces or objects. COVID-19 causes severe symptoms like fever, cough, headache, body aches and difficulty in breathing.

2. Establishment, mandate, and membership of the Ad Hoc Committee

During the sitting of the Senate held on Tuesday, 31st March, 2020, the Senate, by Resolution, established the Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID-19 situation, with the mandate to oversight actions and measures taken by the national and county governments in addressing the spread and effects of COVID-19 in Kenya

This action was taken in recognition of the need for an integrated and multi-sectorial intervention towards a harmonized comprehensive response to the pandemic, and of the need to complement the efforts of the national and county governments in containing the spread of the pandemic and cushioning Kenyans from the shocks arising thereon.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID-19 Situation is mandated to address the following, among other matters-

- (a) provision of testing and medical equipment, including adequate ventilators in referral hospitals and in at least one public hospital in each county;
- (b) provision of adequate isolation centres and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) facilities in each county;
- (c) measures to ensure continuous supply of food and other essential commodities at affordable prices;
- (d) measures to enable learners in educational institutions to continue with their studies;
- (e) measures to ensure protection, safety and well-being of healthcare and other frontline workers;
- (f) enhancement of capacity and flexible deployment of healthcare staff;
- (g) financial assistance to vulnerable persons and groups;
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- (i) establishment of a stimulus package for the Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises;
- (j) easing of legislative and regulatory requirements for doing business;
- (k) measures to protect employees from retrenchment and job losses; and

- (l) uniform policies and procedures aimed at slowing and eventually stopping the spread of the virus.

The Committee is comprised of the following members:-

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| 6) Sen. Erick Okong'o Mogeni, SC, MP | - Member |
| 7) Sen. Mwinyihaji Mohamed Faki, MP | - Member |

At the time of adopting the 8th Progress Report, the Committee had held a total of **71 sittings**. The Minutes of the 71st Sitting are attached to this Report as **Annex 1**.

CHAPTER TWO

ACCESS TO FOOD, WATER AND OTHER BASIC COMMODITIES

2.1 Introduction

As noted in the previous Progress Reports of the Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID-19 Situation, the Committee clustered emerging issues arising from the COVID 19 outbreak situation in Kenya into five thematic areas, namely:

- a) *Health Issues* – including community health, testing, quarantine, isolation centres, ICU facilities, human resources for health, drugs and supplies, role and engagement of county governments, and mental health;
- b) *Economic and Finance Issues* – including macro-economic effects, impact on businesses, trade facilitation, and measures to cushion borrowers and financial institutions;
- c) *Social, Public Order and Human Rights* – including protection for vulnerable persons and groups, protection of women and girls at risk of domestic abuse, measures to enable learners to continue with their studies, enforcement of the nationwide curfew, access to justice, and decongestion of prisons and remand facilities;
- d) *Access to Food, Water and other Basic Commodities* – including measures to ensure the continuous production and supply of food, water and other essential commodities; and
- e) *Support Services and Cross-Cutting Issues* – including awareness creation on measures to prevent infection and combat stigmatization, and the role of ICT in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Subsequently, pursuant to Article 118 of the Constitution and the Senate Standing Orders, the Committee invited stakeholders and members of the public to submit written memoranda arising from, or related to the COVID-19 pandemic, under any of the five thematic areas. The Committee received a total of 160 submissions from stakeholders and members of the public.

Consequently, the Committee identified and analysed the various issues and concerns raised under each thematic area and held meetings with key stakeholders. These meetings have been held **virtually**, on the Zoom meeting platform.

Under the **Access to Food, Water and Other Basic Commodities** the Committee met with the following: -

- a) The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives.
- b) Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS).
- c) Water Service Providers Association (WASPA).

The Committee further received written submissions from the Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation.

2.2 Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives

The Committee held a virtual consultative meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for the Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Hon. Peter Munya, EGH, on Thursday, 7th May, 2020.

The Cabinet Secretary submitted on the status of crop production, food balance sheet, commodity prices, limiting factors for food access, strategic grain reserve stocks, among others. These are as summarized below: -

a) Crop Production

Regarding Crop Production, the Cabinet Secretary submitted that the National food and nutrition security was stable following near normal performance of the 2019 long rains season and good performance of the 2019 short rains season. The 2019 long and short rains resulted in a production of about 43.3 Million (90 Kg) bags of maize, which was a slight decline compared to 44.5 Million bags produced in 2018. However, production of other food staples remained normal.

Although an overall surplus food availability situation was forecasted to be stable at the National level, the ASAL counties especially in the North Western and North Eastern clusters that experienced dismal production mainly rely on markets for food. These counties require close monitoring including in-depth follow-up measure and interventions.

b) Food Balance Sheet

The Maize Balance Sheet forecast to June 2020 indicates that there will be a net surplus maize of about 2,444,800 bags. At consumption of 4.25 million bags per month, the projected balance will not be enough to cover June to July 2020 when early harvesting will commence. The available stocks of the other main food staples (beans, rice and wheat) are sufficient from local production and projected imports.

Maize Balance Sheet projected to June 2020:

MAIZE	
Stocks as at end of March 2020 in 90kg bags	18,052,100
Estimated Imports between April 2020 to June 2020	
i) Private sector/ Relief agencies estimated imports	0
ii) Government imports (SFR)	0
Estimated Harvests between March 2020 to June 2020	
i) Estimated L.R Harvests	0
ii) Estimated S.R Harvests (Feb-March)	0
Total available stocks by June 2020 18,052,100	18,052,100
Expected total exports to East Africa Community region	0
Expected exports outside the EAC region	0
Post – harvest storage losses estimated at 12%	2,166,252
Amount used for Manufacture of livestock feeds (About 110,000 Monthly)	330,000
Amount retained as seed (1%)	180,521
Amount used for manufacture of other products (1%)	180,521
Net available stocks by June	15,194,806
Consumption @4.25 million bags/Month for 3 months for 47.5 million peoples	12,750,000
Forecast Balance as at 30 th June	2,444,800

c) Commodity Prices

The prices of maize and wheat increased following uncertainties brought about by the COVID-19 as well as locust invasion in some counties however, the prices of other food commodities have remained stable. Maize Prices in urban markets remained significantly above average due to delayed seasonal harvests in most regions due to delayed rainfall onsets and prolonged long and short season rains.

The Cabinet Secretary submitted that the commodity prices are as follows-

- (i) Maize prices ranges from Kshs 2,750-3,200 for 90 Kg bag. The trend indicates some decline in prices from what it has been over a couple of months.
- (ii) The maize flour price has also come down to an average of Kshs.126 per 2kg packets. Demand for flour was within normal as many households have several food options and can easily process cheap posho mill flour. The market supply of maize was expected to meet demand and moderate price increases.
- (iii) The average price of beans is Kshs.7,890 for a 90 Kg bag which was within normal at this time of that year.
- (iv) Irish potato prices sold at an average of Kshs.1,970-3,300 for 110 Kg bag.

Given that there was no interruption in food supply and distribution, the overall food commodity prices are expected to remain fair and stable.

Month	2020	2019	2018
January	62,970	25,344	80,689
February	61,217	11,251	1,015,923
March	72,536	103,500	640,912

The Government initiated the process of maize imports by the private sector through Gazette Notice No. 3234 dated 20th April 2020. A few millers were identified through consultative meetings with their Associations to import the commodity. A total of 4 million bags will be imported, 2 million bags for human consumption and 2 million bags of yellow maize for animals' feeds manufacture.

Maize imports are meant to fill the gap the country is expected to experience between the months of June and July 2020. This will also cushion the local producers when the local supplies from South Rift starts hitting the market in August. Bean and Rice imports increased by 23 and 53 percent in March compared to February 2020 for the other commodities (rice, beans, and wheat) usually supplement domestic output.

d) Limiting Factors for Food Access

Hazards such as flooding, and desert locust invasion were likely to adversely affect the long rains crops' production. Damage to crops was experienced in

Kisumu, Busia, Nakuru, and Kericho counties and along the West Pokot-Elgeyo Marakwet border due to flooding and landslides.

Risk of localized locust damage to crops was highest in Embu (Mbeere), Tharaka Nithi, Meru (Meru North), and Kitui counties, where crops are in the vegetative stages. Restriction in movement and impassable roads due to heavy rains may be a limiting factor for food accessibility. Low purchasing power because of loss of livelihoods for some households was also a limiting factor.

e) Strategic Food Reserve (SFR) Stocks

The main objective of the Reserve is to absorb surplus maize in the market to stabilize the prices and cushion the producer prices. However, this year, traders were offering good prices to farmers and Government purchases would have distorted the market.

At the time of the meeting, the NCPB has a total of 13,021 x 90 kg maize bags reserved for famine relief supplies in Eldoret. Therefore, the country has inadequate stocks in its national reserves. In addition, the government left the market forces to control the sales. The Government had also disposed of the old stocks to avoid deterioration of the maize quality. However, the Strategic Food Reserve Trust Fund has a total cash of about Ksh.10 billion that is readily available for food purchases locally or externally if need arises.

f) Preparation measures in place for the planting season, including availing seeds, fertilizer, and other implement

The Ministry was working with other government agencies and stakeholders to ensure that supply of farm inputs to subsistence, livestock and fish farmers is maintained during this season and in the advent of COVID-19.

To ensure that there were no disruptions in supply, the Ministry created a Food Security Wall Room (FSWR) that was continuously monitoring farm inputs supply and consolidation of emerging issues for appropriate action by concerned institutions/ agencies. At the time, there was adequate fertilizer and seed supply.

g) Support to the smallholder farmers to ensure continuity in food production

The Cabinet Secretary informed the Committee that the Ministry has taken the following steps to support small holder farmers-

- i) distributed 10,000 metric tonnes of Cotton seed to the smallholder farmers.
- ii) in the process of procuring 72 Metric tonnes of rice seeds that will be distributed to various farmers and especially so that have lost their rice crop through flooding.
- iii) The County Governments are in the process of supporting farmers through distribution of 10,598 metric tonnes of fertilizer, 1,376 metric tonnes of assorted seeds and 93,450 assorted fruit seedlings.
- iv) 190,000 metric tonnes of planting fertilizers (Mainly DAP and NPK 23:23:0) for food crops production had been distributed by fertilizer companies to various outlets through their supply chains. This was adequate to cover the estimated seasonal requirement of 190,000 metric tonnes. Importation and distribution of topdressing fertilizers is ongoing.
- v) Through the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), farmers have continued to purchase fertilizers from the remaining stocks of the concluded Government fertilizer subsidy program. A total of Two hundred and twenty-one thousand (221,000) x 50Kg bags of fertilizer had been bought by 31st March 2020.
- vi) The Ministry is in the process of operationalizing the National Value Chain Support programme. The aim of the programme is to support targeted beneficiaries in the Maize, Irish potatoes, Rice and Coffee Value chains with a bundle of inputs through e-vouchers.
- vii) The Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders has been working together to reduce transactional costs along the fertilizer supply chain to increase access at affordable prices. The current fertilizer prices are low compared to the same period last year. For example, a 50Kg bag of DAP is retailing at an average price of Kshs.2,700 compared to Kshs.3,200 last year.
- viii) The Ministry is exploring various alternatives to ensure that tea farmers get fertilizer if the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) is unable to make the necessary procurement arrangements for delivery by July 2020.

h) The impact of curfew directives and restriction of movements on the distribution of the essential food stuff across the country

The Legal Notice No 50, Public Health (COVID 19 Restriction of Movement of Persons and related Measures), Rules 2020 issued under the Public Health Act CAP 242, provides guidelines to facilitate transport of farm inputs and food commodities from farms to destination markets.

Commodities include rice, beans, maize, potatoes, cassava, kales, cabbages, rice, spinach, tomatoes, onions, bananas, eggs, meat, fish, chicken, dairy products, tea, coffee, miraa, other food items and all types of lawful cargo including construction materials, fuel and pharmaceutical products.

Under Schedule 1 of Legal Notice No. 50, the transporter is required to provide relevant details of the employee, motor vehicle, purpose, origin and destination of the trip and nature of cargo to enable approvals by the multi-agency team.

The Ministry through the County Coordination & Food Supply Committee has developed protocols and guidelines for market operations and transportation of food to ensure continuous supply. All Agricultural service providers along the food supply chain have been considered as essential with room to operate while adhering to relevant legislations, legal notices, and guidelines.

i) Impact of COVID 19

The Cabinet Secretary made additional submissions on the impact and challenges of COVID 19 on access to food-

i) Transportation of food commodities

- At the beginning, transporters were facing challenges such as inadequate documentation and confusion at the roadblocks/county level. There have been reports of prolonged delays of trucks transporting fresh food products at the check points.
- Cases of impounding and destruction of Miraa produce on transit reported. Protocols and guidelines have been developed to address issues in the Miraa Industry.
- In addition to the provisions of the legal notice, the Regulatory Agency (Agriculture and Food Authority) is issuing motor vehicle stickers online to

all stakeholders transporting inputs, food, and farm produce across the country.

- Counties have domesticated the protocols and guidelines to ease movement and transport of food commodities. There is increased compliance on the protocols and guidelines and documentation by transporters handling food produce.

ii) Monitoring of Food Markets

- Through the established Food Security War Room and Call Centre, the Ministry is monitoring the performance of 45 key markets in 28 Counties. 90% of the markets are operational with few of them reporting supply and distribution challenges arising from closure of Uganda border and temporary closure for decongestion and fumigation by County Governments.
- Few cases of farmers who reside in areas where movement is restricted are willing to travel from Nairobi or Mombasa to visit their farms. Protocols and guidelines have been developed for clearance while considering COVID-19 management guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.
- Market operations and supply of food commodities in some parts of the country e.g. Kisumu, Narok and Nakuru have been affected by the heavy rains and floods being experienced in the region.
- Market operations and supply of food commodities in some parts of the country e.g. Kisumu, Narok and Nakuru have been affected by the heavy rains and floods being experienced in the region.
- Fisheries products are not accessible to the markets, especially the Nairobi Goombah Markets, City markets etc. There is a shortage of fish supply both dry and fresh. Fish traders/transporters from Coastal Counties have been rendered jobless since hotels have closed and there are no options for export.
- Supply of the live fish /fingerlings and ornamentals for both the local market and export has been stopped rendering the people in this sector jobless.
- Movement of processed fish products. e.g Omena, Nile perch from the Lake Victoria region to other markets in the Country has reduced to less than 10% of the normal trading levels before. Most fishers have stopped fishing due to the diminished markets.
- Most counties in the ASALs, except for Turkana, Garissa, Wajir and to a limited extent Isiolo have closed livestock markets which also act as food markets in some cases. Protocols for operations of livestock markets have been developed.

- Customers have been advised to adopt courier services and mobile transactions to procure inputs and food commodities to minimize interactions and possibility of contracting or propagating COVID-19. Food supply chain service providers have taken up the initiative during the period.

iii) Prices of key food commodities

Prices of key food commodities have increased during the period. However, food prices have stabilized over the past two weeks with increases observed on maize and fish (10-20%) and decreases on all other food commodities.

2.3 Submission from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation

The Committee received written submissions from the Ministry, which were signed by the Principal Secretary for Water, Mr. Joseph Irungu, CBS.

The PS noted that the responsibility of providing water and sanitation services is a mandate of county governments and is undertaken through water service providers who were wholly owned by county governments, but registered and regulated by Water Services Regulatory Board under the Ministry.

However, COVID-19 was a national emergency requiring the National Government to exercise its overall mandate of ensuring provisions of water and sanitation services in the country continues uninterrupted, and that the water provided meets standards for drinking water as required by the World Health Organisation and Kenya Standards.

In this regard, the Ministry had undertaken the following interventions: -

- a) The Ministry has requested the National Treasury for budget support to the tune of Kshs.2.49 Billion to finance the following priority interventions during COVID-19 period:
 - i) Rehabilitation of strategic boreholes
 - ii) Installation of plastic tanks
 - iii) Subsidy to Water Service Providers for Electricity
 - iv) Water treatment chemicals
 - v) Installation of handwashing facilities
 - vi) Construction of water storage tanks
 - vii) Connection of water to all existing public toilets
 - viii) Provision of exhaust services to informal settlements
 - ix) Water tracking

- x) Purchase of water bowsers
 - xi) Provisions of aqua tabs for rural setup
-
- b) Issued protocols and guidelines for water supply and provisions of sanitation services to counties through the COG. Among other important requirements, the protocols direct all WSPs to provide free water to informal settlements and vulnerable members of society and suspend water disconnection due to non-payment. All other consumers are to pay for water services.
 - c) Immediately installed and operationalised handwashing facilities at strategic locations in major cities and towns, especially targeting public places and informal settlements to support and escalate the fight against the spread of coronavirus. So far, 5,690 have been installed by Water Works Development Agencies (WWDAs) and 2,500 by Water Service Providers Association (WASPA), while quite a number have been installed by NGOs, private companies, and individuals around the country.
 - d) Engaged WASH partners for support and they have responded by donating 12 tonnes of chlorine, distributed 10,493 plastic tanks of various sizes to reach 255,348 people in Siaya, Homa Bay, Turkana, Garissa and Baringo Counties distributing 373 cubic metres of clean water by trucking on daily basis in Nairobi, Kilifi, Taita Taveta and Kisumu counties and supported hygiene activities in all the counties. These activities are being escalated daily to cover more counties.
 - e) Allocated Kshs.620 million for drilling of 93 boreholes and installation of 93 steel elevated tanks in the informal settlements in Nairobi. To date, all the boreholes have been completed. 40 tanks are complete while 53 are ongoing. The boreholes have increased water to the target areas by 15,000 cubic meters per day benefiting 600,000 people.
 - f) Commenced drilling and equipping of boreholes under water for schools, water conservation and cross –county programs. A total of 381 boreholes are under construction to make water available to rural areas.
 - g) The National Treasury has allocated Kshs.200 million to be used in supporting Water Services Providers across the country to purchase water chemicals and cushion their operational challenges as they provide water chemicals and cushion their operational challenges as they provide free water to informal settlements and vulnerable groups.

- h) Requested and received approval from the Ministry of Energy that continuous electricity supply to all water supply installation in the country will continue uninterrupted during the COVID-19 period.
- i) Requested the Ministry of Energy to consider a preferential tariff for water supply providers to enable them to offer free water to vulnerable groups as well as be able to sustain operations during this critical period.
- j) Initiated discussions with the World Bank under the ongoing Water and Sanitation Development Project with a view to restructuring it to extend to Water Service Providers on operational and minor capital expenditure.

On interventions to ensure waiver of fees and Levies on provision of all water and sanitation services during the COVID-19 period, the Ministry submitted that it had issued protocols and guidelines on the provision of free water to the informal settlements and vulnerable groups.

In addition, the Ministry had been allocated Kshs.200 million to buy water treatment chemicals for Water Service Providers (WSPs) and requested for preferential tariffs which are aimed at reducing the cost of water production.

Further, the Ministry was in discussion with the World Bank to provide financing for operational and minor capital expenditure to Water Service Providers. All these measures are meant to allow WSPs to recover from the effects of COVID-19.

2.4 Meeting with the Water Service Providers Association (WASPA)

The Water Service Providers Association made submissions to the Committee on 17th June 2020, as follows-

a) Water and Sanitation Coverage

Kenya is categorized as a water scarce country with Water per capita of 452m³ against the UN threshold of 1000m³ per capita. Water Coverage is 57%. Sanitation Coverage is at 25% as per JMP. Water resources threatened by pollution degradation of catchments and over exploitation.

b) COVID-19 Initiatives

In Kenya COVID-19 Initiatives are guided by protocols issued by the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Water and Sanitation. This included-

- i) Suspension of disconnection of water supply to customers with outstanding bills for three months effective April 2020.
- ii) Provision of free water to the vulnerable persons in the informal settlements.
- iii) Installation of hand washing points in strategic places that are prone to human traffic, for example markets, bus stations, health facilities etc. A total of 6,512 points have been Installed in the country. These are manned and refilled by respective WSPs including provision of soap.
- iv) Installation of storage tanks and water tracking.

c) Impact of COVID 19

Water Service Providers have been adversely affected by COVID-19, and had taken measures to respond to the pandemic, as follows-

- i) *Drastic Reduction of Revenue* - Most customers have interpreted suspension of disconnection to mean non- payment of water bills, resulting to a dip in collection efficiency from an average of 94% to 30%.
- ii) *Creating Awareness* to the customer on the importance of prompt payment of bills through e-fliers and media advocacy by the Association.
- iii) *Accumulation of Debts* - Most Utilities are unable to meet their cost of operation and maintenance. Power bills are accumulating, water treatment chemical bills and statutory and other salary deductions
- iv) *Supply of Free Water* -This is an enormous challenge currently it requires Kshs 300 million to serve the informal settlement which is already heavily subsidized within the Water tariff structure.
- v) *Non-Budgeted Items* - Supply of water through water trucks, handwashing units and PPE was not in the budget. Contingency plans and budgets should be included in the tariff.
- vi) *Low Coverage in informal Settlements* - There is need to partner with private sector in development of water supply system using prepaid water kiosks and individual connection.

- vii) *Reduced Meter Reading efficiency.* Some customers are reluctant to give access to meter readers.

d) Measures to ensure sustainable supply of water

The following measures were proposed-

- i) *Provision of Grants to WSPs for operational sustainability* for six months at a cost of Kshs.10 Billion to cover chemicals (1.2 Billion); Electricity (1.5 Billion); Vulnerable Persons (1.8 Billion); and Personnel Expenditure (5.4 Billion).
- ii) *Recognition of Water service providers employee as frontline workers* - This will trigger measures to ensure their safety and protection. In this regard, ensure provision of PPE from the COVID emergency fund.
- iii) *Introduction of a preferential Electricity Tariff for WSPs*, taking note Article 43 of COK 2010 recognizes water and sanitation as a basic human right. Current tariff is Kshs 15- 22/Kwh, which was proposed for reduction to a tariff similar to that of street lighting of Kshs 7/Kwh.
- iv) *Zero rating of chemicals for water supply.*
- v) *Suspension of levies and taxes on Water service provision.* Regulatory levy (WASREB), Kenya Forest Levy, Standard Order Levy (KEBS), Water User Charges (WRM) during COVID-19 accounting for 200 million monthly.

2.5 Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS)

The Committee heard the submissions of the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) on 17th June, 2020. They submitted as follows-

a) Measures put in place to ensure continuous supply of water during the COVID-19 pandemic

NMS in collaboration with relevant stakeholders has taken the following measures to address the water supply situation in the face of the Covid-19 Pandemic-

- i) In collaboration with the Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company (NCWSC), no consumer/household has suffered disconnection on account of their inability to pay utility bills. This has reduced revenue collection for NCWSC by about 50%.
- ii) A Water Rationing Master Plan for Nairobi for equitable and better water distribution was developed and is being implemented. It is being closely monitored and adjustments made to ensure its effectiveness.

- iii) Drilling of 93 Boreholes with elevated steel water tanks in Nairobi City has been ongoing. These were expected to be completed and operationalized by 24th June, 2020.
- iv) Registration and regulation of water vendors and bowzers operations to ensure quality of water supplied is adhered to and to manage the vendors and cartels is being carried out. As of now, 336 and 251 water bowzers and exhausters respectively have been registered and gazetted.

b) Measures put in place to ensure access to water and sanitation for underserved communities and informal settlements in Nairobi

To ensure that all residents of Nairobi City have access to water and sanitation in line with Article 42 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, NMS has put the following measures in place-

- i) Providing free water distribution at an average of 200,000 litres per day to informal settlements using water bowzers. The areas supplied include; Huruma, Kabiro, Kaloleni, Kangemi, Kawangware, Kibra, Mathare, Makadara, Mbotela, Mountain View and Viwandani.
- ii) Purchasing 20 additional bowzers which are expected to be ready by 20th June, 2020 will add the fleet to 32 bowzers. This will increase the daily distribution capacity to 600,000 litres.
- iii) Rehabilitation and timely repair of sewers to improve the capacity and control pollution to the environment. iv. Rehabilitation and timely repair of water reticulation to increase the quantity of water accessed by households due to the minimized water loss.
- iv) 10 boreholes drilled with elevated steel water tank done in Mukuru. In addition, NMS is developing water and sewerage systems to address the issue of water and sanitation. The focus is to provide the residents with constant and reliable supply of water and sanitation.

CHAPTER THREE

SUPPORT SERVICES AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

In considering thematic area five, the Committee met and held consultations with the following: -

- a) The Cabinet Secretary for ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs.
- b) Communications Authority of Kenya.
- c) Kenya Broadcasting Corporation.
- d) Kenya Film Commission.
- e) Kenya Film Commission Board.
- f) Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANET).
- g) Youth organizations, including Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Youth and Governance Kenya (YGK) and Maisha Youth Network.

The following section provides a summary of the submissions presented before the Committee by the various stakeholders.

3.1 Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs

The Cabinet Secretary for ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, accompanied by officials from the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK); the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC); Kenya Film Commission (KFC); and the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) made submissions to the Committee on 24th April, 2020, as follows-

- a) There was need to put programs and tools in place to simplify the COVID 19 message, through posters, cartoons, or vernacular languages.
- b) There is need to identify community networks such as *Nyumba Kumi* and the youth to disseminate information about COVID 19 and especially fight stigma surrounding COVID-19.
- c) Good governance and transparency regarding ICT issues is important to ensure better decision-making. The Committee observed that there were delays in the appointment of the Board of the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) due to court cases.
- d) Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) has indicated that it is currently facing challenges in funding due to reduced advertising revenue and inability of digital channels to pay for the similar reasons. There is need provide funding for KBC which provides learning programmes and access

to information on COVID 19. The Committee observed that Kshs.300 million has been allocated in the supplementary budget. Further, the Ministry has paid Kshs.1.8 Billion to broadcasters and planned to pay an additional Kshs.600 million as pending bills.

- e) There was need to support ICT innovations from the private sector regarding improving COVID-19 response and ensure access to information and better use of ICT.
- f) There is need to ensure data protection in the collection, use and storage of health records, tracking and geo-location are but a few examples of how technology is employed in the fight against coronavirus in the country in line with the Constitution and section 25 of the Data Protection Act, 2019.

3.2 Private Sector and Organisations

The Committee heard submissions from the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANET), as well as youth organizations, namely Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Youth and Governance Kenya (YGK) and Maisha Youth Network, on 24th April, 2020. The organizations submitted as follows: -

a) On incentives and linkages at grassroot levels:

- i) The Ministry should put measures in stimulating innovation at grassroot level. Like we have young people with great innovation, but they don't have linkages;
- ii) Many youth own businesses in this creative space- Support tech SMEs and startups run by youth
- iii) Use of Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Uwezo and Women Enterprise Fund to offer interest free loans to upcoming social enterprises which address COVID 19
- iv) Create a focal point of youth organizations to work jointly with government

b) Social Assistance and Unemployment

- i) Prioritization of youth as vulnerable groups
- ii) Social Assistance Programs -Youth in informal settlements, fresh graduates and some select middle class are also needy.
- iii) Youth First Coronavirus Response Act on a proportionate funding emergency corona virus budget which guarantees free coronavirus testing, paid emergency leave, improvement of
- iv) Unemployment Insurance, strengthens food security initiatives, and increase medical funding.

- v) The government should announce enough Stabilization and Support Package for youth to safeguard the economy from the disruption and uncertainties caused by the coronavirus outbreak. Especially for Small & Medium Enterprises (SME's)
- vi) Need for Jobs Support Scheme Funds to help youth firms retain employees during the period of uncertainty.
- vii) Registration of Youth who have lost employment by Employment Authority and reliefs

c) Involvement of youth in the fight against COVID 19:

- i) Provision of PPE and basic training on COVID-19 pandemic to youth to encourage and motivate the youth but the youth should be paid for their services to sustain themselves.

d) Lack of access and inclusion in online learning in rural areas and underserved communities:

- i) Concern online classes and radio Sessions not being accessible to learners from lower income backgrounds and rural communities.
- ii) Ministry of ICT to mobilize and map those youth doing outreach in line with COVID19.
- iii) Then develop a portal which will act as online resource & learning center. This will help in knowledge exchange and collaboration.

e) Public Awareness and Communication on COVID 19-

- i) A Facts over Fear Campaign- The current strategy of criminalizing and stigmatizing COVID-19 and related response, was not working. People, particularly young people, would soon become immune to fear and defiance reigns.
- ii) Special info pack on youth messaging (Youth led - A myriad of Youth friendly platforms exist.
- iii) Inclusion of select youth in the daily MOH briefings - Messaging to target youth, in diverse languages, sheng, et al, might be used.
- iv) Engage youth creatives in creating covid-19 related content

f) Internet Access

- i) Development of daily data bundle specific to information access, to be developed in partnership with the major telecoms firms.

CHAPTER FOUR

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The COVID pandemic situation is highly evolving. The following observations and recommendations by the Committee reflect the situation, and available information at the time of the writing of this report.

Under Thematic Area 4: Access to Food, Water and Other Basic Commodities

The Committee made the following observations-

Observations on Food Security

1. *Crop Production* - The National food and nutrition security was stable following near normal performance of the 2019 long rains season and good performance of the 2019 short rains season. The 2019 long and short rains resulted in a production of about 43.3 Million (90 Kg) bags of maize, which was a slight decline compared to 44.5 Million bags produced in 2018. However, production of other food staples remained normal. However, the ASAL counties especially in the North Western and North Eastern clusters that experienced dismal production mainly rely on markets for food. These counties require close monitoring including in-depth follow-up measure and interventions.
2. *Food Balance Sheet* - The Maize Balance Sheet forecast to June 2020 indicates that there will be a net surplus maize of about 2,444,800 bags. The available stocks of the other main food staples (beans, rice, and wheat) are sufficient from local production and projected imports.
3. *Commodity Prices* - The prices of maize and wheat increased following uncertainties brought about by the COVID-19 as well as locust invasion in some counties however, the prices of other food commodities have remained stable. Maize prices in urban markets remained significantly above average due to delayed seasonal harvests in most regions due to delayed rainfall onsets and prolonged long and short season rains.
4. *Importation of Maize* - The Government initiated the process of maize imports by the private sector through Gazette Notice No. 3234 dated 20th April 2020. A few millers were identified through consultative meetings

with their Associations to import the commodity. A total of 4 million bags will be imported, 2 million bags for human consumption and 2 million bags of yellow maize for animal feeds manufacture.

5. *Limiting Factors for Food Access* - Hazards such as flooding, and desert locust invasion were likely to adversely affect the long rains crops' production. Damage to crops was experienced in Kisumu, Busia, Nakuru, and Kericho counties and along the West Pokot-Elgeyo Marakwet border due to flooding and landslides.

Further, risk of localized locust damage to crops was highest in Embu (Mbeere), Tharaka Nithi, Meru (Meru North), and Kitui counties, where crops are in the vegetative stages.

Restriction in movement and impassable roads due to heavy rains may be a limiting factor for food accessibility. Low purchasing power because of loss of livelihoods for some households was also a limiting factor.

6. *Strategic Food Reserve (SFR) Stocks* - This year, traders were offering good prices to farmers and Government purchases would have distorted the market. The Reserve therefore did not need to absorb surplus maize in the market. At the time of the meeting, the NCPB has a total of 13,021 x 90 kg maize bags reserved for famine relief supplies in Eldoret. Therefore, the country has inadequate stocks in its national reserves.

In addition, the government left the market forces to control the sales. The Government had also disposed of the old stocks to avoid deterioration of the maize quality. However, the Strategic Food Reserve Trust Fund has a total cash of about Ksh.10 billion that is readily available for food purchases locally or externally if need arises.

7. *Preparation measures in place for the planting season, including availing seeds, fertilizer and other implement* - The Ministry was working with other government agencies and stakeholders to ensure that supply of farm inputs to subsistence, livestock and fish farmers is maintained in the course of this season and in particular in the advent of COVID-19.
8. *Creation of Food Security Wall Room (FSWR)* - In order to ensure that there were no disruptions in supply, the Ministry created a Food Security Wall Room (FSWR) that was continuously monitoring farm inputs supply and consolidation of emerging issues for appropriate action by concerned

institutions/ agencies. At the time, there was adequate fertilizer and seed supply.

9. *Support to the smallholder farmers to ensure continuity in food production* - The Ministry had taken the following steps to support small holder farmers including distribution of seeds and fertilizers.

a) *Transportation of food commodities* - Food transporters have faced challenges such as inadequate documentation and confusion at the roadblocks/county level. There have been reports of prolonged delays of trucks transporting fresh food products at the check points. There have also been cases of impounding and destruction of Miraa produce on transit reported. In this regard, the Ministry developed Protocols and guidelines have been developed to address issues in the Miraa Industry.

b) *Monitoring of Food Markets* - Through the established Food Security War Room and Call Centre, the Ministry is monitoring the performance of 45 key markets in 28 Counties. 90% of the markets were operational with few of them reporting supply and distribution challenges arising from closure of Uganda border and temporary closure for decongestion and fumigation by County Governments. However, there have been challenges in market operations and supply of commodities such as fisheries products.

Observations on Access to Water

1. The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation had requested the National Treasury for budget support to the tune of Kshs.2.49 Billion to finance priority interventions during COVID-19 period including rehabilitation of strategic boreholes; installation of plastic tanks; Subsidy to Water Service Providers for Electricity; Water treatment chemicals among others.
2. The Ministry has issued protocols and guidelines for water supply and provisions of sanitation services to counties through the COG. Among other important requirements, the protocols direct all WSPs to provide free water to informal settlements and vulnerable members of society and suspend water disconnection due to non-payment. All other consumers are to pay for water services.
3. Waiver of fees and Levies on provision of all water and sanitation services during the COVID-19 period - The Ministry has issued protocols and

guidelines on the provision of free water to the informal settlements and vulnerable groups. In addition, the Ministry has been allocated Kshs.200 million to buy water treatment chemicals to all Water Service Providers (WSP) and requested for preferential tariff which are aimed at reducing the cost of water production. Further, the Ministry is in discussion with the World Bank to provide financing for operational and minor capital expenditure to Water Service Providers.

4. Drilling of 93 Boreholes by the Nairobi Metropolitan Service (NMS) in conjunction with stakeholders with elevated steel water tanks in Nairobi City has been ongoing. At the moment, 55 boreholes have been sunk and are operational while the drilling of the other 38 boreholes are expected to be completed and operationalized by 24th June, 2020.
5. There is need for Registration and regulation of water vendors and bowzers operations to ensure quality of water supplied is adhered to and to manage the vendors and cartels is being carried out. As of now, 336 and 251 water bowzers and exhausters respectively have been registered and gazetted.
6. The Committee observed that the Nairobi Metropolitan Service (NMS) has undertaken free water distribution at an average of 200,000 litres per day to informal settlements using water bowzers. The areas supplied include; Huruma, Kabiro, Kaloleni, Kangemi, Kawangware, Kibra, Mathare, Makadara, Mbotela, Mountain View and Viwandani. Purchasing 20 additional bowzers which are expected to be ready by 20th June, 2020 will add the fleet to 32 bowzers. This will increase the daily distribution capacity to 600,000 litres. Additionally, there has been 10 boreholes drilled with elevated steel water tank done in Mukuru

Having made the observations outline above, the Committee makes the following recommendations-

1. County Governments, in conjunction with the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) develops a community-based framework for the mapping of donors, coordination and receipt of donations and funds, procurement and distribution of food rations and essential commodities to vulnerable low income families and present the same to the Senate within seven (7) days. The framework should ensure equity, transparency and accountability and monitoring and evaluation.

2. The National Government expands its current social security programmes to cushion the most vulnerable in society. In this regard, the Committee recommends the operationalization of the Social Assistance Authority established under the Social Assistance Act (No.24 of the 2013 of the Laws of Kenya).
3. Counties should domesticate the protocols and guidelines to ease movement and transport of food commodities. There is increased compliance on the protocols and guidelines and documentation by transporters handling food produce.
4. The Committee further recommends that National and County Governments adopt innovative ways to promote food production through support and information, for example promoting urban farming and promoting non-traditional crops (every crop counts).
5. The Committee recommends that the National and County Government should ensure monitoring of the ongoing locust threat work out modalities on how to work with the private sector to mainstream Spray Service Providers (SSPs) to help farmers in responsible fumigation.
6. The Committee recommends that County Governments increases access to water by developing strategies to subsidizes water service providers to ensure continuous access to water through reduction of tariffs.
7. The National Government introduces a preferential Electricity Tariff for WSPs, taking note Article 43 of COK 2010 recognizes water and sanitation as a basic human right from the current tariff is Kshs 15- 22/Kwh.
8. National Government ensures Zero rating of chemicals for water supply during the COVID-19 period.

Under Thematic Area 5: Support Services and Cross-Cutting Issues

The Committee made the following observations-

1. There is need to put programs and tools in place to simplify the COVID 19 message, that is through posters, cartoons, or vernacular languages.
2. There is need to identify community networks such as Nyumba Kumi and the youth to disseminate information about COVID 19 and especially fight stigma surrounding COVID-19.

3. Good governance and transparency regarding ICT issues is important to ensure better decision-making. The Committee observed that there were delays in the appointment of the Board of the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) due to court cases.
4. Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) has indicated that it is currently facing challenges in funding due to reduced advertising revenue and inability of digital channels to pay for the similar reasons. There is need to provide funding for KBC which provides learning programmes and access to information on COVID 19. The Committee observed that Kshs 300 million has been allocated in the supplementary budget. Further, the Ministry has paid Ksh.1.8 Billion to broadcasters in the private sector and planned to pay an additional Kshs 600 million to clear pending bills.
5. There is need to support ICT innovations from the private sector especially regarding improving COVID-19 response and ensure access to information and better use of ICT.
6. There is need to ensure data protection in the collection, use and storage of health records, tracking and geo-location are but a few examples of how technology is employed in the fight against coronavirus in the country in line with the Constitution and section 25 of the Data Protection Act, 2019.

Having made the observations above, the Committee made the following recommendations-

1. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Health simplifies its messaging of COVID 19 to increase awareness through posters, infographs, cartoons or vernacular languages and inclusion of materials in braille that are accessible to persons with disabilities.
2. The Committee further recommends that National and County Governments coordinate with civil society organizations (CSOs), religious organizations and local media channels for effective sensitization of communities with the accurate information.
3. That the National Government involves the Youth in the COVID-19 Response by engaging them in disseminating information.
4. Ensure adequate funding for Kenya Broadcasting Corporations (KBC) which is relied upon for educations and learning programmes from the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) especially by rural communities.

5. The Committee recommends that the Board of the Communications Authority of Kenya be constituted to ensure that the good governance, accountability, and transparency in ICT matters especially with regard to the impact of COVID 19.
6. Use available data on Huduma Number and the Housing Census to identify the vulnerable Kenyans to provide assistance during COVID-19 pandemic period.
7. The Committee further recommends that the National Government allocates emergency financial support to the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation to assist in learning and disseminating information especially the rural populations.
8. The Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs should support the Judiciary in setting up their ICT infrastructure to ensure better service delivery during the COVID 19 Pandemic.
9. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of (ICT) to collaborate with the private sector to leverage on ICT to ensure access to information through COVID 19 Mapping Applications, developing an Open Data Portal, as well as developing communication through radios and television. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs leverages on technology to be employed in contact tracing.
10. The Committee recommends that the National Government increase access to the internet by reducing the cost of internet by reducing excise tax on airtime and data bundles and channeling the Universal Service Fund (USF) for rapid response initiatives.
11. Increase partnerships with private sector through support of ICT innovations in response to COVID- 19 pandemic.

ANNEXES

- Annex 1:** Minutes of the 71st Sitting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID-19 Situation
- Annex 2:** Presentation by the Cabinet Secretary for the Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives
- Annex 3:** Submission by the Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation
- Annex 4:** Submission by the Water Services Providers Association (WASPA)
- Annex 5:** Submission by the Nairobi Metropolitan Services