

# THE NINTH [9<sup>TH</sup>] STATE ADDRESS ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

## HARAMBEE HOUSE

MONDAY, JULY 6TH, 2020  
*[06.07.2020]*

**Fellow Kenyans,**

1. When I last addressed you on the **6<sup>th</sup> of June** this year, the nation was confronted with a **dilemma of TWO RIGHTS** over the COVID-19 crisis. The two dominant positions were whether to **re-open** the country or **not**.
2. One **side of the divide** presented an economic argument. They wanted us to re-open the country and **save** the economy.
3. They argued that COVID was a **health crisis** alright; but it was also an **economic crisis** at the core. If we take care of the economics of Corona, they argued, the health crisis will be easier to manage; more so with the necessary protocols in place.
4. The **opposite** side tabled a compelling case against re-opening the country on the **6<sup>th</sup> of June, 2020**. Made up of medical scientists and researchers, this group of experts argued that the country was not ready.
5. Their models pointed to a soaring crisis if we re-opened without the necessary health protocols. According to them, a series of **irreducible minimums** had to be met before we could consider easing the containment measures in place.
6. After much reflection, my Administration opted for the **health argument** over the **economic argument**. More so because we can always **revive an ailing economy**; but we cannot **bring back to life**

those who **die** from this pandemic. **And** with this as our **chosen path**, we **set** out to build the **irreducible minimums**.

**Fellow Kenyans,**

**7.** The leadership of all the critical stakeholders we have consulted on this path for the last month is **standing behind me today**. **And** the question before us is the following: **Have we met this irreducible minimum? Are we ready to re-open?**

**8.** According to the experts and stakeholders, we have not met the irreducible minimum **100%**.

**9.** However, **consensus** amongst them is that we have reached a **reasonable level of preparedness** across the country to allow **us to re-open**.

**10.** With this expert **opinion at hand**, and the counsel offered by the National Security Council (NSC), I, today, announce a **phased re-opening** of the country as follows:

**I. One,** I order and direct **THAT** the cessation of movement **into** and **out** of the **Nairobi Metropolitan Area, Mombasa County** and **Mandera County**, that is currently in force, shall lapse at **4:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2020**

**II. Two,** I order and direct **THAT** the **Nationwide Curfew** that is currently in force between the hours of **9pm and 4am** daily, be and is hereby extended by a **further 30 days**.

**11.** By re-opening **Nairobi, Mombasa** and **Mandera**, we are **more at risk than we were when the restrictions were in place**. We must, therefore, exercise **cautious optimism**, and avoid **reckless abandon**. I believe that, although the path to **recovery** is **rocky** and **uneven**, it is navigable. **And** this is why I must **give two qualifications** to the **phased re-opening**.

**12.** **Firstly**, the order to re-open is given **conditionally**. Should the situation deteriorate and pose a **challenge** to our **health infrastructure**, it shall be '**clawed back**'. In the **next 21 days**, we shall study patterns of interactions and the spread of the disease. **Any**

trends that signal a worsening of the pandemic, we will have no choice but to return to the **lock-down** at **zero-option**.

**13. Secondly**, this order will only bear fruit, if we exercise **shared responsibility**. My intention is to **re-open** and to remain **open**. The 'claw back' option is not on my wish list at all.

**14. But** to re-open and remain open, you **MUST** become your **brother's keeper**. While the government will, no doubt, do its part to achieve the desired wish of remaining open, you, mwananchi must also do what is expected of you personally to achieve it. This is, therefore a National Call to **civic responsibility**.

**15. And** on this I must further add that, **civic responsibility** is not a demand placed on the **self** by the **state**. It is not a demand that can be enforced. It is a **duty** you pay to your fellow countrymen for **co-existing** with them.

**16. It** is a **voluntary act** of goodwill expressed to your neighbours in good times and in bad times. It is a **civic duty** to defend and protect yourself, your family and the **environment that nurtures you**.

**17. My National Call** to you all, therefore, is to **minimize unnecessary contact** and **movement**. I encourage all Kenyans to consider delaying **non-essential up-country travel**, and to exercise extreme caution and fidelity to the correct usage of face-masks, hand washing and sanitization, physical and social distancing, and concern for the **health of the elderly and immune-depressed persons**. And you must always remember that there are no **unbearable responsibilities** in the face of a crisis like the one we are in.

**Fellow Kenyans,**

**18. With** the advice of the **National Security Council** and the National Emergency Response Committee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, I further **order** and **direct** the following phased measures:

- I. THAT** places of worship will 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**;

- II. THAT,** 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;
- III. THAT, Sunday Schools and Madrassas** shall remain 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**;
- IV. THAT,** following consultations with stakeholders in the education sector, and cognizant of the surge in the rate of infections, the Ministry of Education shall jointly with all the stakeholders in the sector shall today, not later than tomorrow, notify the public on the resumption of the **2020 Academic Calendar** for Basic Education and Tertiary Institutions.
- V. THAT,** conscious that movement of people is a catalyst for the spread of the disease, 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 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.**
- VI. THAT,** Local Air Travel within the Territory of the Republic of Kenya shall resume effective **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020;** in strict conformity with all applicable **guidelines and protocols** from both the Ministry of Health and civil aviation authorities;
- VII. THAT** International Air Travel into and out of the Territory of the Republic of Kenya shall resume **effective 1<sup>st</sup> 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;

**VIII. THAT** the prohibition against **social** and **political** gatherings, of whatever nature, is extended for a further **period of 30 days**;

**IX. THAT** 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 is extended for a further **period of 30 days; and**

**X.** That 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.

### **Fellow Kenyans**

**19.** As we implement the phased re-opening, I remain alive to the economic and social challenges facing our country.

**20.** Jobs have been lost, businesses have closed and livelihoods endangered. **And this is the sorry state** of things the world over. **But** history has taught us that the COVID crisis is not the first health disaster with such enormous economic challenges. **There were many more before this one. However,** those who overcame previous disasters and finished on top, began by **first** changing their **mind sets**.

**21.** Put differently, it is not enough for government to pump resources into the economy using **stimulus instruments**, as we have done. **Such efforts will go to waste if the people** do not **co-create solutions** with the government.

**22.** Those who overcame previous disasters in history did so because they acted as one. **The people and their government** entered into a **joint-venture to subjugate their challenges**.

**23.** This, therefore means for us to **revive the economy, re-open and remain open**, the **government** and **its people** must pull together.

**24.** Today, I have invited you to exercise **civic responsibility** towards each other. **But** I do not want you to exercise this responsibility in the fight only against COVID-19 pandemic. **I** want you to have a

**shared responsibility** with government in reviving our economy. **And** for us to do this by **first** changing our **national mind-set**. **We** have the opportunity to stitch a “new national mindset garment as it were”.

**25.** My Madaraka Day Speech of **June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020** set the stage for this change in mind-set. **I** challenged all of us to **re-imagine Kenya** the way our Founding Fathers Imagined “**a nation from nothing**”. **And** today, with a much younger population, I challenge you to **re-imagine** our economic and **business models** as we re-open tomorrow. **We** must remember that Corona Virus is an invisible enemy. **We** cannot **confront** this enemy because we cannot see it; we can only **evade** it. **And** evading an invisible enemy calls for imagination.

**26.** **I** Instead of doing business as usual, therefore, the moment calls us to do business unusual. **When** we re-open, we cannot use the **old maps** to navigate the **new lands** created by the moment. **We** must have the courage to **let go the old MODELS of yesterday in order to find the new opportunities presented by this crisis today**.

**27.** Those who will change their **mind-set** and embrace the new normal, will be favoured by destiny. I particularly encourage our young people to take up this challenge of **re-imagining our business models**.

**28.** **And** yes, they may have no capital, but the currency of the COVID moment is **ideas and young Kenyans are a flora of ideas**.

**29.** **I** note with satisfaction that our textile industry has already seized the moment and leveraged on the silver lining presented by the COVID crisis to create opportunities for our fellow countrymen. **Owing** to this initiative, Kenya is today emerging as a net exporter of PPEs to the region.

**30.** **I** applaud the COVID-19 Response Fund for contracting the local industry to produce PPEs for our healthcare workers. **I** encourage other sectors of our economy to re-imagine Kenya as a net exporter.

**31.** Turning to the **social front** as my last point, I am concerned by **increasing tensions within our homes**. Cases of **Gender-Based Violence** have increased, mental health issues have worsened, and instances of teenage pregnancy have escalated.

**32. I appeal to social institutions,** including the religious institutions, to exercise **civic responsibility** to bring these unfortunate trends to an end.

**33. We must always remember that the family is a projection of the State. If the family is under attack, the State is under attack. If the family is weak, the country is weak.**

**34. Therefore, to fortify our protection of the family as the foundation of the State, I further Direct and Order that the National Crime Research Centre to probe:**

- (i) the escalating cases of gender-based violence;
- (ii) the worrying trend of cases where the girl child has been disempowered; and
- (iii) the violation of children's rights.

**35. In that regard, the Centre is further directed to prepare an advisory to our security agencies on remedial action within 30 days from the date hereof and initiate immediate prosecution of all violators.**

**36. Finally, and as a fact of history, a CRISIS has two elements to it. The first is danger, the second is Opportunity. Success is given to the person who exploits the opportunity and evades the danger. And to exploit the opportunities given to us as we re-open, our mind-set must be that of a maker-of-things.**

**37. We must remain positive because a "...Positive Nation is a FORWARD moving NATION". Kenya mbele leo kesho na milele. We must all endeavor to return the river to its course.**

**Thank You and God Bless You; and God Bless Kenya.**

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