



THE SIXTEENTH [16TH] PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

TUESDAY
29TH JUNE, 2021

STATE HOUSE

Fellow Kenyans,

1. Today, we mark more than **15 months** since we recorded the first COVID-19 case in Kenya. Although our experiences as a people have been different, the last 15 months have been a season of **adapting to a new normal**.
2. Our former way of life was re-set and we had to adapt to **new and unfamiliar routines**. To protect our children and **secure** their future, we took them **out** of school.
3. Similarly, we had to shy away from places of worship in order to **preserve** the believers, their families, and their neighbours. For the love of our elderly, we had to forego visits to our elderly relatives in order to show them **love**. This has been the **unfamiliar and uncomfortable new order** of the last 15 months.
4. And as a country, we have adapted to the **new normal** with **grace and resilience**. Terms that looked remote and far from our reach



became our normal – the mention of curfew elicited anxiety and lockdown uncertainty. Over these fifteen months, we have learnt to anticipate **COVID-related shock** and to forestall its impact with speedy action. On its part, the government has provided **swift policy actions** and **bold decisions** whenever a COVID-related threat is detected.

5. But our **resilience** as a nation against this pandemic is not just a **government affair**. The people of Kenya have exercised an admirable **degree of civic responsibility** in this fight.
6. Indeed, Kenyans have taken the **civic duty** of protecting themselves, their families and country against this pandemic positively. Without your **exercise** of civic responsibility and duty, government's swift action would have amounted to nothing. **I THANK YOU.**

Fellow Kenyans

7. For the last 15 months, COVID took us into a State of Uncertainty in **unfamiliar** territory that was compounded by a series of dilemma's that pitted a choice between lives and livelihoods.
8. But today, I am happy to note that a **path out of this uncertainty** is beginning to emerge. And the emerging path has two sides to it. The **first path** is a **challenge** and the **second path** is an **opportunity** with a promise.



9. Let me begin with the path that is a **challenge**. For the last 15 months, our efforts of fighting this **pandemic** can only be described as a '**containment seesaw**'. And I call it a '**seesaw**' because sometimes we **win** on one front and experience a **loss** on another front.
10. For instance, the highest positivity rate this year was at **26.6% in the fourth week of March, 2021**. This forced us to zone out and lock down the COVID hotspots of **Nairobi, Kajiado, Kiambu, Nakuru and Machakos**. These counties accounted for 70% of all the COVID positive new cases.
11. The lockdown brought the positivity rate down to **7.8% in May 2021**. And as we eased the lockdown measures in the five zoned counties, the **Western Region** of our country and the neighbouring Republic of Uganda experienced a new wave. Because of the **unusual nature** of this virus, our **gains** in Nairobi, Kajiado, Kiambu, Nakuru and Machakos, were **annulled** by the Western attack.
12. Now, Busia, Kakamega, Nyamira, Kisii, Migori, Siaya, Homa Bay, Kisumu, Trans-Nzoia, Bungoma, Bomet, Vihiga, and Kericho, are on heightened containment measures from the **17th June 2021**.
13. In fact, out of every **5 positive** cases in Kenya a fortnight-ago, **2** were from the Western Region. And what is worse: this region has experienced a **high positivity rate** of **21%**, compared to the national average of **9.1%** as at that time.



- 14.** This **swing** between loss and gain in the fight against the pandemic is what I am calling the '**containment seesaw**'. You **win** on one theatre of battle and **lose** in another. And by default, this swing has created some form of survival instinct in our population.
- 15.** The fight against COVID is both a **social** and a **health** challenge as such we aspire for '**herd immunity**' in the health arena; and we seem to have built what **sociology experts** call '**herd instinct**' in the social arena. We seem to have built a **national consensus** on what we must do to defeat this pandemic and it is steadily working.

Fellow Kenyans,

- 16.** The **second path** out of the COVID '**Fog of War**' for Kenya is an opportunity with a **promise**. When we reported the first case of COVID-19, more than 15 months ago, the idea of a vaccine was a **mirage**.
- 17.** One year later, in **March 2021**, we were able to roll out a National Vaccine Deployment Plan. Our strategy was to vaccinate **10 million adults** by **June 2022** and approximately **16 million** by June 2023.
- 18.** But inspired by our '**Acceleration Doctrine**', which is about **constantly** increasing the **speed** of achieving our **goals**, we revised our Vaccine Deployment Plan.



- 19.** Instead of vaccinating **10 million adults** by **June 2022**, we will vaccinate the **ENTIRE** adult population of **26 million Kenyans** by 2022. In fact, by Christmas this year, we intend to have vaccinated Over **10 Million adults**. According to our experts, we will have built a capacity to vaccinate **150,000 people** every day from **August 2021**.
- 20.** And this **accelerated plan** will be aided by a few **swift actions** and **bold programmes**. For instance, we have ordered **10 million vaccines** from **Johnson and Johnson**, with the first consignment arriving in Kenya in **August 2021**.
- 21.** But in the process of negotiating with this company, we managed to get **a lower price**. For the price of **10 million vaccines**, we have negotiated for them to deliver **13 million vaccines**.
- 22.** And because the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is administered using **a single shot**, the speed of rolling out our vaccination programme will be accelerated. Using these vaccines and others in the pipelines, this is how we will vaccinate **Over 10 million Kenyans by Christmas 2021** and **26 million** by end of **2022**.
- 23.** And if a vaccine for **under-age populations** is registered by early next year, we intend to vaccinate an **extra 4 million young adults** by June 2022. With a vaccinated population of **30 million people**,



this will allow us to begin the journey for '**Herd Immunity**' against this pandemic. And this is our intention for the next 12 months.

24. In that regard, and following consultations with the Council of Governors, and with the advice of the National Emergency Response Committee to COVID-19 and the National Security Council, I hereby issue **Public Order No. 4 of 2021**, as follows:

- I. The **hours of curfew** are maintained at between **7:00 p.m and 4:00 a.m** in the COVID-19 hotspot zone; which comprises the counties of Kisumu, Siaya, Homa-Bay, Migori, Busia, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Kisii, Nyamira, Kericho, Bomet, and Trans-Nzoia up to **31st July, 2021**;
- II. That for the rest of the **territory of the Republic of Kenya**, the **nationwide curfew** shall continue to be observed from **10:00 p.m to 4:00 a.m** for a further containment **period of 60 days**;
- III. That excluding the above mentioned Counties, in/person worship and congregational worship shall continue to be conducted in keeping with the **one-third capacity rule** and in accordance with the guidelines of the **Inter-Faith Council**;



- IV. That the prohibition **against political gatherings** and **all public gatherings** is extended for a further **60 days**;
- V. That all persons coming into the Country must be in possession of a negative COVID-19 PCR Certificate, acquired no **more than 96 hours prior** to arrival into the Country; with the **PCR Certificate** also having been validated under the Trusted Travel platform for those travelling by air;
- VI. That duly classified and licensed hospitality establishments must continue to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health. The establishments must also ensure the adoption of and compliance with the '**Tourism Safe Travels**' protocols developed by the hospitality sector;
- VII. In regard to funerals, cremations and other interment ceremonies; it is directed that these ceremonies shall be conducted strictly **within 96 hours of confirmation of death**;
- VIII. That the attendees, officiators, and facilitators of funerals or graveside/cremation ceremonies shall be limited to **100 persons in total**;



- IX. That the attendees, officiators, and facilitators of weddings, celebrations of marriage or traditional unions, ceremonies of rites of passage, and all other similar events or ceremonies shall be limited to **100 persons in total**;
- X. That all hospitals are directed to limit the number of visitors for hospitalized patients **to one visitor per** patient per day; and
- XI. That all other rules, guidelines, and protocols not reviewed through this **Public Order** shall continue to apply until otherwise notified.

Fellow Kenyans,

- 25.** I will conclude with **two thoughts**. First, it is now clear that we cannot exclusively depend on foreign partners and their systems to resolve our health crises. In that regard, we must substantially prepare ourselves before the next crisis knocks on our doors.
- 26.** My Administration is addressing this matter through a **mid-term** and **long-term** strategy. In the **mid-term**, we will build in Kenya a **'fill and finish'** plant. The plan being to import the COVID-19 vaccine unpackaged and finalize the logistics of **filling** and **packaging** it in Kenya. This will save us on time and will make us a **supply hub** for Eastern and Central Africa.



27. Our **long-term** strategy is to set up a **Human Vaccine Centre**. I have directed a **multi-agency Team** to activate this plan and to **focus not only** on the COVID-19 Vaccine, but on any other human vaccine needed in our region.
28. The national quest to produce human vaccines here in Kenya will elevate our nation as a producer for both human and **veterinary vaccines** that we currently supply to Eastern Africa, all the way to Morocco in North Africa.
29. My **second thought** is about the **uptake** of the COVID vaccine, once we begin the mass roll-out in July this year. Some Kenyans have formed certain **theories** about vaccination and its **effects**. Although vaccination is **free-of-charge** and no one will be forced to get it, some **education** about it is **crucial**.
30. And I say so because by **Mid-2022**, we have potential to reach '**herd immunity**' in which the dangers of one infected Kenyan will not affect a community of people unchecked.
31. But we can also build '**herd instinct**' in our communities. If '**herd immunity**' is meant to respond to an attack, '**herd instinct**' is meant to **anticipate** the attack and **stop it**. And this can only be achieved through vaccination and vaccine education.



32. To this end, we urge the **Inter-Faith Council**, working with private sector partners and other civic associations to take up the vaccine education and to be a **central plank** of the upcoming vaccination drive. This way, we will build the 'herd immunity' and ensure that the instinct of communities to survive is high.

Have a Good Day.

Keep Safe and be Your Brother's Keeper.

God Bless You. God Bless Kenya