



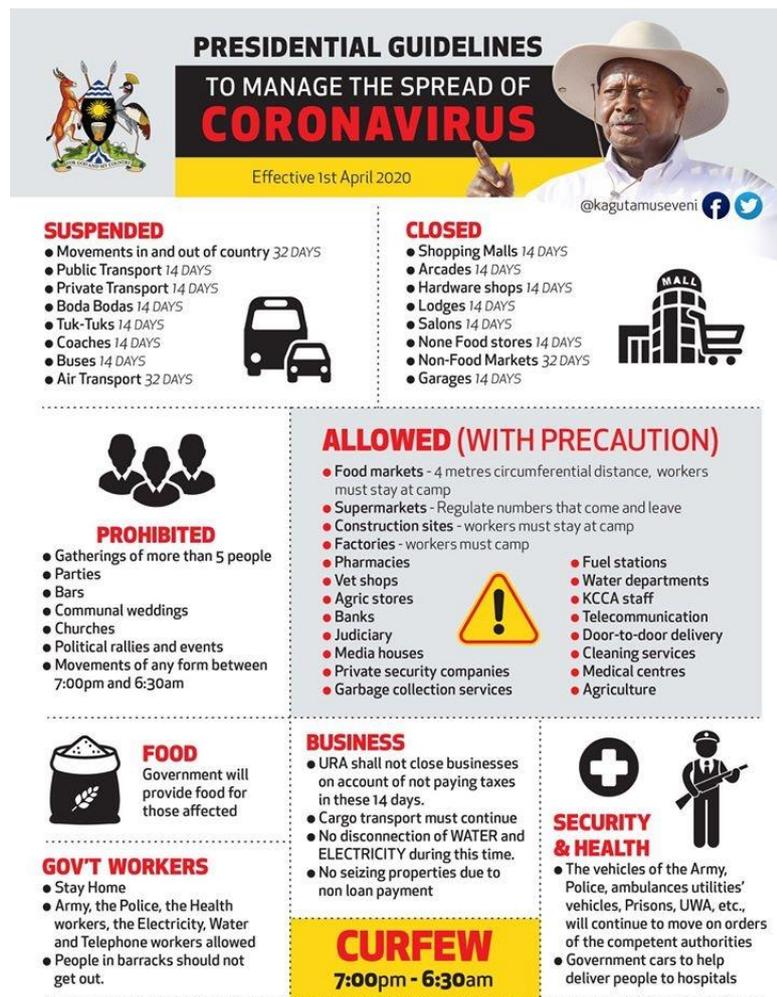
## RUFORUM THOUGHT PIECE ON COVID-19

to the national and international reporting centres. The whole of Africa has rising cases with a handful of countries holding out.

**Figure1: Map showing cases of corona virus infection in Africa as at 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2020**

### How Africa is responding

Africa has been responding aggressively to the pandemic. All Schools were ordered closed in the Nigerian capital of Lagos after only eight cases were confirmed nationwide; while Kenya closed all schools once 7 confirmed cases were reported. South Africa banned visitors from high-risk countries, closed down schools and opened drive-through testing centers in the initial stages of the disease. Within weeks, it was clear that these measures were not containing the disease, and the country has now gone into total lockdown.



**PRESIDENTIAL GUIDELINES TO MANAGE THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS**  
Effective 1st April 2020

**SUSPENDED**

- Movements in and out of country 32 DAYS
- Public Transport 14 DAYS
- Private Transport 14 DAYS
- Boda Boda 14 DAYS
- Tuk-Tuks 14 DAYS
- Coaches 14 DAYS
- Buses 14 DAYS
- Air Transport 32 DAYS

**CLOSED**

- Shopping Malls 14 DAYS
- Arcades 14 DAYS
- Hardware shops 14 DAYS
- Lodges 14 DAYS
- Salons 14 DAYS
- None Food stores 14 DAYS
- Non-Food Markets 32 DAYS
- Garages 14 DAYS

**ALLOWED (WITH PRECAUTION)**

- Food markets - 4 metres circumferential distance, workers must stay at camp
- Supermarkets - Regulate numbers that come and leave
- Construction sites - workers must stay at camp
- Factories - workers must camp
- Pharmacies
- Vet shops
- Agric stores
- Banks
- Judiciary
- Media houses
- Private security companies
- Garbage collection services
- Fuel stations
- Water departments
- KCCA staff
- Telecommunication
- Door-to-door delivery
- Cleaning services
- Medical centres
- Agriculture

**PROHIBITED**

- Gatherings of more than 5 people
- Parties
- Bars
- Communal weddings
- Churches
- Political rallies and events
- Movements of any form between 7:00pm and 6:30am

**FOOD**

- Government will provide food for those affected

**BUSINESS**

- URA shall not close businesses on account of not paying taxes in these 14 days.
- Cargo transport must continue
- No disconnection of WATER and ELECTRICITY during this time.
- No seizing properties due to non loan payment

**SECURITY & HEALTH**

- The vehicles of the Army, Police, ambulances utilities' vehicles, Prisons, UWA, etc., will continue to move on orders of the competent authorities
- Government cars to help deliver people to hospitals

**GOV'T WORKERS**

- Stay Home
- Army, the Police, the Health workers, the Electricity, Water and Telephone workers allowed
- People in barracks should not get out.

**CURFEW**  
7:00pm - 6:30am

also battling and are overwhelmed by their own outbreaks. As for now it is everyone for themselves in battling this dangerous and aggressive disease. It is a situation that we have never had before.

**Figure 2: Measures that Uganda has put in place to manage COVID-19.**

It is noteworthy that in Africa most of the cases have been imported from Europe and probably Asia; with relatively low community transmission of the virus. This later stage, when reached will be the most difficult and challenging for the continent to deal with. The main aim of many countries now is to try and avoid community transmission, although it is

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becoming increasingly clear, that even with closed schools, lockdowns and closed airport, the cases of Corona virus infections are still going up in many parts of the continent.

					
POPULATION	52.2m	110.1m	12.8m	60.9m	45.7m
DATE OF FIRST CASE	12 March 2020	13 March 2020	14 March 2020	16 March 2020	None
NO. OF CASES	7	9	11	6	0
<b>SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = Closed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = In Place					
PUBLIC EDUCATION: SANITISATION, WASHING HANDS, SOCIAL DISTANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PUBLIC INFO HOTLINE & UPDATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCHOOLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HIGHER LEARNING OPEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BUSINESSES	WORK FROM HOME ADVICE	?	WORK FROM HOME ADVICE	?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BARS & RESTAURANTS	LIMITED HOURS	NIGHT CLUBS CLOSED	SAFE DISTANCE; 1M	?	NIGHT CLUBS CLOSED
SUPERMARKETS	1.5M APART	?	SAFE DISTANCE, 1M	?	PROVIDE SANITISER
SPORTING EVENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MASS GATHERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OPEN AIR MARKET	SOME CLOSED	SOME CLOSED	?	?	?
PSVS / PUBLIC TRANSPORT	SANITISING OF PASSENGERS; CAPACITY LIMITS	FREE GOVT. BUSES	HAND WASHING UNITS	HAND WASHING UNITS	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
PRISON VISITS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	?	?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRAVEL FROM COVID COUNTRIES BANNED UNLESS CITIZEN / RESIDENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BANNED FLIGHTS TO 30 COVID COUNTRIES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TOTAL 30 DAY PASSENGER AIR TRAVEL BAN	NONE AS OF NOW; FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS AND PREPARE FOR RESTRICTIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BANNED FLIGHTS TO 31 COVID COUNTRIES, ACCEPTING CITIZENS
FUMIGATION / SANITISATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FUMIGATION IN NAIROBI	GOVT. TO DISTRIBUTE SOAP / ALCOHOL	COMMUTER PARKS HAND WASHING UNITS	n/a	TO BEGIN SPRAYING

**Figure 3: Safety measures taken to contain Covid-19 in East Africa ((courtesy of Maitri Capital, 2020)**

This raises questions as to whether the measures being put in place can contain the diseases. But there is a more difficult question “can Africa deal with large numbers of this disease?”. Given our weak health systems, lack of health personal and equipment and without support from our traditional partners, this disease is a disaster in waiting.

### Disaster in Waiting

Already the continent is experiencing economic difficulties arising from measures that it has taken to try and contain this disease. Figure 4 shows the Economic and financial measures that are being taken to contain the disease in East Africa.

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	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	RWANDA	TANZANIA	UGANDA	KENYA	ETHIOPIA	RWANDA	TANZANIA	UGANDA	
<b>MOBILE MONEY MEASURES</b>	Transfer costs up to KES 1,000 (USD 13) will be waived off  Individual transaction limit increased to KES 70,000 (USD 700) to KES 150,000 (USD 1,500) and total transactions up to KES 150,000 (USD 1,500) to KES 300,000 (USD 3,000) per day	Ethiopia currently does not have mobile money transfers allowed	National Bank of Rwanda and mobile network service providers agreed to waive transaction costs  The limit for individual transfers using mobile money wallets has been increased from RWF 500,000 (USD 534) to RWF 1,500,000 (USD 1604) for Tier I customers and from RWF 1,200,000 (USD 1270) to RWF 4,000,000 (USD 4278) for Tier II customers	Bank of Tanzania (BOT) encouraged cashless transactions over cash; BOT also Aceded banks to educate the public on ways to use alternative payment channels  Customers will get 1GB of data as just UGX 2,000 (USD 0.5) valid between 9am and 5pm to encourage working from home	For 30-days, customers can send up to UGX 30,000 (USD 8) Mobile Money every day to other MTN MoMo customers free of charge  Customers will get 1GB of data as just UGX 2,000 (USD 0.5) valid between 9am and 5pm to encourage working from home	Business registration services suspended  Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning shut for 28 days  Court activities scaled down over 2 weeks	Courts and some government services have been suspended	Court operations suspended countrywide for two weeks from Monday 16th	None as yet	None as yet	Court hearings and appearances suspended for at least 32 days with effect from March 20
<b>GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO FIGHT COVID-19</b>	Central Bank released KES 7.4b (USD 70m) to contain Covid-19 with KES 3.8 (USD 36m) to hire more health workers to boost the sector's capability to respond to the pandemic  KES 500m (USD 4.5m) is set aside to help tourism sector recovery	As first round financing, the government has announced that it has allocated BRR 300 million (USD 10m) to fight Covid-19  Commercial Bank of Ethiopia donated USD 300k to the Ministry of Health for Covid-19  Prosperity Party has donated \$3m for the National preparedness and response efforts currently undergoing, especially targeting the vulnerable population with lack of access to hygiene supplies	Rwanda estimates to use about RWF 16 billion (USD 17m) in the response in a period of 6 months	TSHS 500m (USD 215k) set aside by Government Ministry of Health to fight covid-19	None as yet	Competition Authority of Kenya has warned collusive increases of prices and/or hoarding, with the intention of subsequently increasing prices, will face harsh penalties of up to 10 per cent of turnover	Trade ministry to monitor and act against businesses engaging in price-gouging	Trade minister fixed food prices to prevent price hikes. Some of the foods include beans, maize, bananas, sugar, rice & cooking oil.	Fair Competition Authority warned manufacturers and retailers against hiking price of goods  Immediate implementation of SADC Pooled Procurement Services (SPSS) by the Tanzania Medical Stores Department (MSD) to enable availability of drugs and medical devices at affordable prices	None as yet	None as yet
<b>EXTERNAL FUNDING TO FIGHT COVID-19</b>	World Bank has given the government KES 6.3b (USD 60m), with USD 50m from the Covid-19 Financing Facility while USD 10m is from the Contingency Emergency Response Component of Transforming Health Systems for Universal Care Project	Jack Ma, China's richest man, has pledged to donate 20,000 testing kits, 100,000 masks and 1,000 medical use protective suits and face shields to each one of the 54 African nations to help the fight against coronavirus	Jack Ma, China's richest man, has pledged to donate 20,000 testing kits, 100,000 masks and 1,000 medical use protective suits and face shields to each one of the 54 African nations to help the fight against coronavirus	Jack Ma, China's richest man, has pledged to donate 20,000 testing kits, 100,000 masks and 1,000 medical use protective suits and face shields to each one of the 54 African nations to help the fight against coronavirus	To seek USD 100m concessional loan from the World Bank to cushion from economic blow of Covid-19 and deal with the financing gap in the national budget for the financial years 2019/2020 of USD 100m and USD 90m in 2020/2021	All physical cash and coins will be quantified for one week  Borrowers will get relief on personal loans based on individual circumstances for 1 year  Medium-sized enterprises loans can be assessed and restructured based on their individual circumstances arising from the pandemic  Banks will also waive all online costs for balance inquiry and cash transfers to mobile banking	None as yet	Local banks to ease loan repayment conditions to borrowers affected by COVID-19  National Bank of Rwanda (BNR) floated a liquidity support of RWF 50b (USD 535m) for banks to borrow at Central Bank Rate of 5%  For the next six months BNR will be able to buy back the floated bonds (at the existing market rate) in case the buyers are not able to sell on the secondary market (from official brokers) but with a reduced waiting period from 30 to 15 days	Bank of Tanzania is to declare special liquidity assistance for one year to financial institutions and waive limitations on restructuring credit facilities of financial institutions that may be going into distress	None as yet	Bank of Uganda (BOU) will provide exceptional liquidity assistance for one year to financial institutions and waive limitations on restructuring credit facilities of financial institutions that may be going into distress  BOU will intervene in forex market to smooth excess volatility  Ministry of Health to publish standard operating procedures governing the use of money in markets and banks, such as disinfecting coins

**Figure 4: Economic and Financial measures put in place to contain the Corona Virus (courtesy of Maitri Capital, 2020)**

Managing this outbreak in Africa is not going to be a walk-in park. This is especially so given that a large number of citizens in the continent live in informal settlements (slums) and are involved in informal trade. This makes recommended interventions such as social distancing and hand-washing difficult to implement and yet, total lockdowns cannot work given that many countries do not have the capacity to feed and provide other essential necessities when citizens are in isolation. In our setup, people go out every day as a means of being able to feed and sustain themselves and their families. So far looking at the crisis in Africa and how countries have responded, many people think that Africa was underestimated in its preparedness, fighting spirit, genetic strength and resilience of the people to fight corona. The continent seems to be off to a good start.

## What needs to be done

So how does the continent deal with this pandemic given its weak position as indicated above?

### 1. We need effective isolation centres:

The continent needs working and effective isolation centres, ventilators and medical staff who can isolate and attend to coronavirus patients till the immune system develops antibodies naturally.

### 2. Information is critical

In this era of social media where misinformation travels like wild fire there is need for common communication centres that keep the citizens informed and misconceptions

corrected. Countries must urgently set up and manage national Corona information centres.

### **3. Research and Documentation**

There is need for continuous analysis of case numbers, who is being affected, who is recovering and why; and what treatment is working. Given how everyone else is fumbling to deal with this problem Africa could just provide the leadership to the world on how to combat this disease.

#### **On a wider society scale**

On the wider society scale we are also learning and here are some lessons to take home

**i. None of us is safe:**

I have learnt with shock that none of us is safe. If one of us is affected, we are all bound to suffer. So, going forward we must aim to develop our whole human ecosystem (the world) and not our individual countries and regions. In other words, you cannot make progress if I am not making progress. We need vibrant and working health systems for everyone in the world.

**ii. Our Health matters**

I have had time to reflect on the investments that we have made to modernize our armies and police services, and the numbers of people that we have deployed in this sector. In many countries, little or no attention has been paid to training, deploying, and remuneration of health workers. We now can see right before our eyes that with corona, our armies and police are helpless. They cannot help us and cannot help themselves. There is need to re-think the way we manage and run our health system and make the right investments.

**iii. Business must serve society needs**

Those of us in Africa that got used to importing everything (clothes, food, medicine, phones, etc.) from China, Europe and the rest of the world, now realize how much we need our local farmers, our local bakeries, our small and nascent industries. It is now “everyone for himself” and God for all of us. We have killed our industries and businesses through lack of protection from our big brothers and sisters. Now in these lock downs, we realize that only local businesses and industries can respond to our needs. We need hand cloths, face masks, drugs, ventilators, sanitizers etc and our local industries are not able to produce enough. Let’s grow our local talents, businesses and industries... it is worthy it when the world stops being interconnected, the way Corona has done to us. Lastly, we must never treat health as a business. Health is a human right... that we all need to access.

**iv. There must be a new beginning**

Corona has and will continue to change the way we work, live and do business. None of us is safe. None of us matters more than another. We must support each other. We must respect the little things that we are all doing to support humanity. We must respect each other. Money matters, but we must preserve life. It is a humbling experience for me.

*This is our first issue in a series of articles we are releasing as part of our RUFORUM Thought Pieces on the Corona Pandemic. You can get more information about RUFORUM at [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org). You may also share your thought piece about the Pandemic with us by writing to [e.adipala@ruforum.org](mailto:e.adipala@ruforum.org) and copying [m.agena@ruforum.org](mailto:m.agena@ruforum.org)*

### About the Author:

**Dr. Eusebius J. Mukhwana** is an experienced Team Leader and Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the Agriculture and Higher Education Sectors in Africa. Strong Social and Business Development Professional with a Doctor of Philosophy - PhD focused on Soil Science and Economics from University of Wyoming, USA.

Dr Mukhwana serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (a network of 126 Universities in Africa), whose Secretariat is based in Kampala, Uganda; he is also the Vice Chair of the African Qualifications Verification network (AQVN), Co-chair of the Kenya Dual TVET Training Network (modelled on the Germany Systems) and member of the Competence Based Education and Training (CBET) Coordinating Committee in Kenya. He is a recipient of the Norman Borlaug Award for Leadership in Agriculture (2009) and Head of State Commendation (HSC) by the President of Kenya (2005) both for his pioneering role in igniting social transformation in Kenya and Africa. He is an ardent believer in the Capabilities of Africa and promotes the idea that the continent can produce more Economically and Socially to assure Prosperity for its people and the rest of the World. He currently serves as the Director General of the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA).