

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nairobi, April 4, 2020

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FUND (NGAAF) RELEASES EMERGENCY FUNDS TO COUNTIES TO CONTAIN COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), domiciled in the Ministry of Public Service and Gender, established to empower women, youth and Persons living With Disabilities (PWDs), vulnerable children and elderly persons has released emergency funds to assist in the response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Fund has released a total of **Twenty-four million five hundred and sixty-eight thousand, four hundred and ninety-eight (Ksh 24,568,498)** to the 47 counties. The Fund liaised with the National Emergency Response Committee on the emergency interventions to carry out across the counties. One of the critical roles of the Fund is to respond to emergencies that afflict the Affirmative Action groups as enshrined in the Public Finance Management Act 2016. The Fund facilitates provision of social development services at the constituency and county levels.

Further, the NGAAF Board has released **Kshs. Four hundred and thirty-one million eight hundred and fourteen thousand three hundred and eleven (Ksh 431,814,311)** to 26 counties to support economic empowerment of the Affirmative Action groups, majority of whom have been hard-hit by the closure of their income generating activities owing to the Covid 19 pandemic. Some of the allocations will be used in purchase of water tanks while **Kshs. 43 million** will be used for civic education on the pandemic and prevention measures.

In its efforts to promote hygiene as a measure of combating Covid 19, the emergency funds will be used in the provision of water cans with taps in most of the counties upon recognition that most of the marginalized groups do not have running water points.

The Fund has also invested in the physical provision of water through water trucks and through Water Users' Associations. This shall be mainly implemented in the urban slums and the in the arid lands. NGAAF has also invested in the provision of soaps and sanitizers in the counties, locating these items in strategic places such as markets and town centers and at vantage points in the villages.

In most arid counties where businesses have been grossly affected by the pandemic, the Fund has targeted the most vulnerable and will use the funds to distribute food items to the most affected.

Other areas of intervention in which the funds will be utilized as recommended by the National Emergency Committee include: purchase of personal protective materials such as gloves, overalls, nose masks, overcoats, sanitizers, diapers, and First Aid boxes; adoption of hospitals earmarked to manage the infected patients, by purchasing beds, bed sheets, blankets, utensils and supply of food; purchase of power generators and fuel, and other sources of power needed for resuscitation of patients.

County Committees and the County Women Representatives will play an oversight role in the activation of the interventions.

Signed:

Date:

TITUS LOTEE

CEO NGAAF