Dear Fellow Members of AFICS-K,

Further to my recent note, I extend my special greetings to you with the hope that you are all keeping safe and healthy. I wish to update you as follows:

COVID-19

1. Because of targeted testing, the number of cases appears to be increasing and this trend might continue for some time;
2. The virus has now touched almost all the 47 counties of the country;
3. The areas which are hardest hit are Nairobi and Mombasa. In Nairobi, Eastleigh has the highest infection rate followed by Kawangware. Currently, Eastleigh is on lockdown for two weeks. This is also the case with Old Town in Mombasa.

As Bill Gates said, COVID-19 reminds us that we are all equal regardless of our status, we are all connected, our health is precious, and life is short.

Pension Fund

1. I am pleased to report that there was an increase of 4 percent in the pension. This was reflected in the April statement.
2. We have received a communication from the Pension Fund informing us that because of the impact of the coronavirus, they will be extending the deadline for receipt of the Certificate of Entitlement (CE), from end of May to end of June. We hope by that time the UN complex will be open for AFICS-Kenya office to assist, if need be.

Other challenges the country is facing

1. Some parts of the country have had more rain than anticipated. This has had severe side effects and the heavy rains have caused massive flooding in many parts of the country. The floods have destroyed crops and damaged infrastructure including water pumps and the like, and have cut major access roads in some counties. Many families have been left homeless because their houses have been flooded and their property destroyed. Mudslides have swept away houses in several parts of the country. There are fears of outbreaks of waterborne diseases and malaria.
2. Some parts of the country are still infested with locusts. FAO, in partnership with the Government, has been actively assisting the affected counties.
3. By and large, the Government is fighting multiple crises at the same time. Hopefully, despite its financial constraints it remains focused in order to continue addressing all of them together.

I want to end with this encouraging word by Maya Angelou, “we may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated”.

Remain strong, safe and healthy.

Amb. John O. Kakonge, President, AFICS-K. 14th May, 2020