Dear Fellow Members of AFICS-K,

I am pleased to send my compliments with the hope that you are all safe and well, including your families. I wish to update you with the following:

Pension Matters

Certificates of Entitlement (CE)

This is to remind you all that your CEs will be available at the end of this month. Please download yours and sign it and forward it to the Pension Fund. If you have any problems, AFICS or the pension office will assist.

New Retirees

The Fund is pleased to announce that new retirees can now view their entitlement letter in Member Self-Service (MSS) provided that their initial benefit was processed by the Fund after 1 March 2020. As you know, the entitlement letter is the first letter that is issued to a new retiree once the pension is implemented. This letter contains important information regarding their contribution and benefit amounts.

Member Self-Service (MSS)

The Fund strongly encourages all retirees and beneficiaries to sign up for Member Self-Service.

2019 Revision Statement

Your 2019 Annual Revision statement is now available on your Member Self-Service (MSS) account under the documents. Please note that each year an Annual Pension Statement is published for each participant and it contains relevant pension information as reported to the Fund by member organizations up to 31 December of the previous year.

Coronavirus—COVID 19

As you are aware, the number of coronavirus cases in the country is increasing daily. Nairobi remains the country’s epicenter of the contagious disease, with 2728 out of 5533 positive cases nationwide as at 26 June 2020. According to the Ministry of Health, if you live in Mombasa you have a higher risk of contracting coronavirus compared to someone in Nairobi because of the higher attack rate in Mombasa. The coronavirus is now in 40 counties, with Nairobi leading in number of cases (2729), followed by Mombasa (1369) and Busia (387). The rise in cases for Busia and Kajiado (237) is due to cross-border traffic. All the counties have been encouraged to have at least 300 isolation beds available to address the increasing demand. In view of the growing numbers, the government launched a home-based isolation programme two weeks ago. This means that some patients with mild symptoms may be managed at home provided proper laid-down procedures by MOH are followed. In addition, the patients at home will be monitored regularly by medical care experts who will refer seriously ill patients.
Other Health Concerns

The county governors and public health experts are surprised that people have stopped visiting hospitals for fear of being infected by coronavirus. Specifically, some people are missing their regular checkups and scheduled appointments with their doctors. This has resulted in a rise in various diseases such as cancer, HIV, malaria and others. There have been some unreported fatalities resulting from this. Also, some funds earmarked for treatment of other diseases have now been channeled to combat coronavirus and this make treatment for equally important diseases suffer. In short, if you have friends and family members who have appointments, please encourage them to keep their appointments. Further, the biggest disservice globally concerning the coronavirus has been misinformation and disinformation, which is causing more harm than good.

Economy

According to the IMF, the coronavirus pandemic has sparked an economic crisis globally like no other. The damage is stunning and more widespread than any downturn in recent decades. Many major economies will shrink and recession will be experienced in most economies including ours. Also, there will be a drop in diaspora remittances which is critical in supporting the Kenya economy and individual families. The sectors which are most hard hit are tourism and agriculture, which employ many Kenyans. The sector which has revived is manufacturing. Almost all factories, like Rivertex (Eldoret), the Shona EPZ factory in Athi River and Kitui Textile Centre, have been active in manufacturing the personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 health workers and masks for the general public. As the experts say, as things stand and until a vaccine is found, let’s learn how to live with the coronavirus pandemic.

I want to end with the encouraging and wise words of two famous people. Aristotle once said that “It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light”; while Albert Einstein reminds us that “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

I want to thank you for your continued support of our Association and your understanding.

Warm regards,


27th June, 2020