

Poem:

Puddle of Debt Distress

Austerity compliments prosperity
That's what they say.
But our social and economic
Structures have been disrupted.
We are constrained.
Indirectly strained servicing an
Onerous public debt we weren't
consulted on.
Set up on a blind date we
didn't sign up for.
Budget unaccounted for.
Empty hospital beds bereft of life
Helpless in strife
With no oxygen ventilators, and
space to care for the sick.
Government spends more on
Debt repayment and less is
Allocated to health and education.
There are more children out
of school because they cannot
afford school fees and

More people dying from the
pandemic.
Another statistic for the Ministry
of Health.
Maternal mortality rates are high
Pregnant women die everyday
from neglect and shortages
in the blood bank.
Solutions are complex..
Answers are evasive.
Our health systems are under
Resourced.
Funds are less
The Covid-19 vaccine is
barely enough.
Scarcity screams through
hospital corridors.
Many have been left hanging.
With worry wrinkling their brow.
How are we supposed to
Survive in this public trilemma
when every point or progression
is blocked and economy resuscitation is uncertain?
Struggle is romanticized
Covid-19 is a public squatter
Who refuses to leave.
A haunting in every home.
Some, with barely enough to
Survive.
The Task force planned for

only a month.
Rheumy eyes, and a hollow belly.
These blank faces paint the
busy streets of kampala.
They roam through busy traffic.
In between matatus and boda bodas.
Knock on car windows for
A little change.
While others sit out in corners
in despair.
Each drowning in a lake of
uncertainty
Walking on a tight financial rope.
Systematically deprived of services.
Tomorrow isn't promised.
The future is a scam for the young.
We are winds whistling in open
fields.
Spilling sweat, and blood for an economy with
an appetite for loans
whose intention barely touches
our feet.
An economy that jumps through
hoops for loans they can't
Afford.
At our expense.
Another inheritance for our unborn
children.

