



OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

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**SPEECH OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, THE DEPUTY  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE  
OPENING OF THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE PRE-  
MASHUJAA CONFERENCE WEEK AT KAPKATET STADIUM,  
KERICHO COUNTY ON OCTOBER 16, 2023**

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**The Cabinet Secretary, Health, Susan Nakhumicha;**

**The Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health, Mary Muriuki;**

**The Chairperson, Council of Governors, Anne Waiguru;**

**Our Host, Governor Erick Mutai;**

**Ministry of Health and County Officials;**

**Our Partners;**

**Our Gallant Healthcare Workers;  
The Great People of Kericho County;  
Distinguished Guests;**

**Pokeeni salamu nyingi sana kutoka kwa Rais wa Jamhuri  
ya Kenya Daktari William Samoei Ruto.**

**We meet here today, under the Theme: *Universal Health Coverage- Afya Nyumbani*, a few days after our President flagged off over 100, 000 Community Health Promoters to work in the 47 Counties.**

**It is also a great occasion to witness the potential of the Kericho County Smart Primary Health Care Network, which is envisioned to transform healthcare service delivery through digitisation of data.**

**I congratulate Governor Mutai and his entire team in establishing this digital system. It will redefine how we work for our people. Indeed, integrating digital technology is one of the best strategies of ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.**

**Allow me to also appreciate the Ministry of Health for the Guidelines we are launching from Kericho County, the host of the Mashujaa Day celebration this year. They will support and strengthen our healthcare system.**

**On this note, I wish to commend the Community Health Promoters, who have been engaged for this assignment. You are our heroes. We can't pay you enough for the splendid work you are already undertaking. Once again, we count on your utmost dedication to deliver to Kenyans, the Promise of Universal Health Coverage.**

## **Distinguished Guests;**

**October is significant to Kenya and the world. During this month, we work to raise awareness on Cancer and in particular, Breast Cancer. Cancer is one of the leading noncommunicable diseases, which collectively kill about 27 % of our people annually. In some cases, non-communicable diseases and conditions account for up to 50% of hospital admissions.**

**This overstretches our healthcare system, therefore, negatively impacting on quality of service.**

**Quality healthcare is very expensive for most families. Serious health conditions are sinking families into abject poverty as many Kenyans cannot access healthcare insurance.**

**In fact, only about 26% of the more than 53 million people have some form of health insurance cover. When a serious medical condition strikes, poverty is inevitable for most families. Poverty strips off one's dignity. This in turn slows development.**



## **Distinguished Guests;**

**This is one of the reasons the Ruto Administration is investing in promoting preventive healthcare to the grassroots in collaboration with Counties. This is alongside the ongoing reforms in the National Health Insurance Fund to enhance access to quality healthcare as enshrined in our Constitution.**

**We are closely working with Counties in establishing sustainable structures of promoting preventive health as envisioned under the Universal Health Coverage.**

**In this regard, we allocated 141.2 Billion Shillings to the Ministry of Health, with at least 18.4 Billion Shillings going into UHC. We are determined to meeting and surpassing the minimum target of 15% of the National Budget to the Health Sector as per the Abuja Declaration of 2001.**

## **Distinguished Guests;**

**The Primary HealthCare Network tool, which Kericho County is integrating into its health care system, will progressively contribute to data collection on various diseases and other medical conditions.**

**This is crucial in strategic and targeted planning, moreso in resource allocation as we seek to reap from preventive health interventions.**

**Today, we will also issue a certificate to Kericho County Referral Hospital as a Level 5 health facility.**

**The Level 5 facility alongside Kapkatet Hospital, must redefine medical services in this region.**

**Besides creating a favourable environment for research and incubation of medical innovations, students will have an opportunity of shaping and sharpening their skills.**

**As students of Kenya Medical Training College Sigowet Campus and other medical institutions put into practice their skills at the Level 5 Hospital, there is potential in ground-breaking research in digital medical practices, including Artificial Intelligence.**

**There is no regret in innovation. There is no waste in exploring and testing and incubating new ideas.**

**While such institutions may not have top-notch facilities, we must leverage other research institutions like the Kenya Medical Research Institute in nurturing ideas to medical-break-throughs.**

**Furthermore, integration of the Electronic Community Health Information System and other digital platforms require more research to improve and sustain such structures.**

## **Distinguished Guests;**

**As we raise awareness on testing and treatment of Breast Cancer this month, screening has been seen to contribute to reducing mortality by between 25 and 39% over the last decade.**

**While we are registering such progress, we note that ONE in every NINE men in sub-Saharan Africa- Kenya included- is a potential candidate for Prostate Cancer.**

**In this regard, I challenge the stakeholders herein to also elevate awareness on Prostate Cancer for our men to be tested early.**

**This will inform timely interventions to save lives. Some countries have adopted September as the Prostate Cancer awareness month. We are ready to engage and propel such life-saving conversations.**



**On this note, I wish you a successful Pre-Mashujaa Day celebrations.**

**ASANTENI SANA**