



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**SPEECH OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, DEPUTY
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE
LAUNCH OF STIPEND PAYMENT TO COMMUNITY HEALTH
PROMOTERS ON FEBRUARY 16, 2024 IN KAREN,
NAIROBI**

Cabinet Secretary for Health Susan Nakhumicha;
Principal Secretary, State Department for Medical Services, Harry Kimtai;
Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muriuki;
The Chairperson, the Council of Governors, Anne Waiguru;
The Chairperson, CoG Health Committee Muthomi Njuki;
Our partners;
Distinguished Guests;

Today, we make a key milestone in our Health Sector as we launch payment of 3 Billion Kenya Shillings stipend to the 107,000 Community Health Promoters.

As the National Government, we are honouring our commitment of contributing 50% of the stipend to these great men and women.

For the last four months, they have selflessly served our Nation.

On behalf of our President, H.E Dr William Ruto, we honour you for your vigour and valour, which is changing service delivery to the People. They are our Health Heroes.

It is because of their outstanding performance that we have reached 2.7 million households since the President launched the Community Health Programme in October last year.

In under four months, we have touched lives of at least 13.5 Million Kenyans- a 25% reach in personalised health services.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

And this is what I mean in personalised service. With a simple CHP Kit of a Blood Pressure Machine and Glucometre, 1.56 Million Kenyans have been screened for Diabetes from the comfort of their homes.

Of these, 24,000 have been referred to health facilities for quick attention- something that could have been missed leading to life threatening situations.

On the other hand, over 1.1 Million Kenyans have been screened for hypertension at home, of whom 50,000 have been referred to health facilities for further attention.

In addition, 54,000 expectant mothers have been screened. At least 24,000 have been referred to health facilities.

It is a pragmatic approach by the Ruto Administration to achieving Universal Health Coverage.

For the first time, most Kenyans at the Bottom of the socio-economic pyramid are seeing a health service provider in their homes.

We are on course to delivering on Universal Health Coverage as envisioned under the Kenya Kwanza Plan.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

On our part, we are investing in strengthening community and facility-based Primary healthcare as promised under the Healthcare Pillar.

This is because we know that Primary Health Care is a People-centred approach for promotive, preventative, curative and rehabilitative services.

With early detection of diseases and other health conditions, *Afya Nyumbani* is putting our Nation on the path to reducing the cycle of health-induced poverty.

Further, studies have shown that for every One Kenya Shilling invested in Community Health, we would realise the equivalent of 9.4 Kenya Shillings in economic and societal benefits.

We want to stop Kenyans from sinking into poverty because quality healthcare is unaffordable to low income households in a country where only about one in four people have a health insurance cover.

It is also estimated that our people are spending over 150 Billion shillings in out-of-pocket treatment.

Besides selling property, Harambees for medical bills are common-place.

While the National Hospital Insurance Fund requires at least 500 Kenya Shillings in monthly payments, defaulting and dormant accounts for almost half of the membership leaves low-income families a step away from abject poverty.

It is for this reason that the Ruto Administration is undertaking radical reforms through the Social Health Insurance Act 2023 and other related frameworks for all to access quality healthcare as required by the Constitution. Sorting out health issues has a direct positive implication on improving the lives and livelihoods of the people- especially at the grassroots.

The National Government has provided at least 107,000 community health Promoters Kits, 110,000 smart phones for electronic data collection, among other requirements, as agreed during the Inter-Governmental Summits of February and December 2023.

We are headed in the right direction towards a healthy and wealthy Nation.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As we release the stipend to the community health promoters, they are ready to make their contribution to a healthier and better Kenya.

In this regard, we are calling on Counties to fulfil and sustain their side of the bargain.

Indeed, quality healthcare is not a favour to the People. It is a Constitutional Right, which we must fulfill together.

Kenyans care about quality, efficiency and effective service delivery.

And this can only be realised when the two levels of Government complement and collaborate.

To foster and sustain the gains we are making, the National Government will strive to timely disburse funds to the Counties.

IN CONCLUSION, I thank the Counties and our partners who have worked with us in implementing the CHP Programme.

On this note, I request Counties to also ensure smooth implementation of the CHP programme by committing resources.

ASANTENI SANA