



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SPEECH

BY

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DURING

**THE PRESIDENTIAL LAUNCH OF THE MAISHA
COUNTY LEAGUE CAMPAIGN**

JULY 28, 2016

H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya,

Fellow Cabinet Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Excellency,

It is my pleasure to be here as you receive the **“Maisha County League”**, trophies for this innovative idea that will provide a platform for us all to push the boundaries of HIV control in Kenya. Your excellency, it is not a time for us to speak much, but more a time for you to speak with these young people who are here today, who are the face of the youth in Kenya. There are sportsmen and women and young people living with HIV from each County. Allow me to make three points your excellency.

Your dedication and commitment to the youth of Kenya is unparalleled and remains consistent. You have often declared that our youth are our future and your leadership is about the future of Kenya. You have led by example, being a champion to end AIDS related stigma and discrimination and the Sasa Hivi campaign that you launched and is now being rolled out will allow our young people to live healthy and prosperous lives. Today is yet another example as you take time to receive trophies from our young Kenyans from all 47 counties who will compete in football for their teams and Counties.

Your commitment has had many results for the HIV response. The number of people dying from AIDS related infections reduced by 37% between 2013 and 2015. Mother to child transmission reduced by 47% in the same period with the introduction of free maternity that has seen many HIV positive women access skilled birth attendance, Her Excellency's Beyond Zero clinics and with an upgrade in ARV regimens for all our pregnant mothers. The number of young people on treatment has increased, thank to our collaboration with other Ministries.

Although we have made these strides we recognize the challenges that our youth face that continue to pre-dispose them to HIV and it is our intent that this is addressed. We are confident that the Maisha League will be the beginning of a changing the course of HIV, giving our youth healthy and high quality lives.

Your Excellency, we present the trophies to you today that signify a desire by a multi-sectoral team from Sports, Education, Youth, Social Services to deliver health for Kenyans. The trophies are intended to be earned through committed action. We therefore request that on December 1st 2016, which is World AIDS Day you award the winning Counties and teams. We further request your support to galvanize all Kenyans including the Private Sector to support this initiative to safeguard our youth.

It is my now pleasure to request you to receive the Maisha County League trophies and thereafter address this delegation.

THANK YOU.