



NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL COUNCIL

REMARKS

BY

THE CHAIRPERSON NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL COUNCIL

MS. ANGELINE SIPARO

DURING

**THE LAUNCH OF KENYA AIDS PROGRESS REPORT, THE 2018 HIV
ESTIMATES AND HIV COUNTY PROFILES**

IN EMBU

NOVEMBER 20, 2018

**Our Chief Guest, Cabinet Secretary for Health Mrs. Sicily Kariuki,
Governor, Embu County, H.E. Martin Wambora,
Development Partners present,
Members of the Civil Society,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning,**

It gives me great pleasure to join you today as we launch the Kenya AIDS Response Progress Report and the Kenya HIV Estimates 2018. This is yet another milestone for us at the National AIDS Control Council (NACC), but more-so, in the country's fight against HIV and AIDS.

Our Chief Guest, we are here to take stock; go back in time and see whether we have made strides in our HIV and AIDS response, 30 years on. Gone are the days when we knew not what to do, who to talk to or even where to go, if diagnosed with HIV. Our people are now getting tested, they are seeking treatment, they are embracing behavior change and they are prolonging their lives. Our HIV response mechanisms remain necessary and relevant today as they were when the first HIV case was reported in 1984.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have seen the results and can paint a picture of the HIV situation in our country. Let me however remind us all that these numbers represent people. They are about you and me and our loved ones...

Our Chief Guest, our experience has taught us that there are no easy solutions to the fight against HIV and AIDS. The Council, together with

partners, have scaled up interventions that are relevant to each cohort, and speak directly to their needs. I'm glad to report that the Adolescents and Young People for example, are now on the fore front in the HIV response. Whereas the KARPR report indicates they are still the leading cohort in new infections, the 40% drop in new incidences is indicative of successful interventions.

Allow me at this point to assure you that the reports we launch today were generated through globally accepted scientific methods, providing credible data on current HIV situation in the country. This affirms NACC's commitment to investing in the generation of good quality data for HIV and AIDS planning and programming.

Ladies and Gentlemen, stigma and ignorance are some of the challenges that we continue to address as part of our advocacy and intervention programmes. The KARP report attributes high new infections among sections of the society to stigma and ignorance. The NACC continues to work with partners to arm communities with requisite knowledge to curb this. We also take cognizance of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in families, which is yet another impediment to the fight against the HIV scourge. This is not a Kenyan or African problem; it is global. It is disheartening to note that violence against children is still rife in this day. Reports indicate that 33% of Kenyan girls and 17% of boys will have been sexually violated by their 18th birthday. This happens under our watch. We must be decisive and take urgent action because these violations spiral into their adult life, further exposing them to risks of HIV and AIDS.

Former South African President, the late Nelson Mandela who was an anti-HIV Champion once said *“At another moment in our history, in another context, the liberation movement observed that the time comes in the life of any nation when there remain only two choices: submit or fight.”* We have no choice but to remain relentless and fight.

As I conclude **Our Chief Guest**, I wish to thank all who remain steadfast in this fight. Thank you to County Governments for their support to the response; we continue to boost our resource base in line with the county programmes you have in place. I wish to express sincere gratitude to all partners for remaining committed to this cause; for developing programmes that are proving to work. Allow me to commend Faith communities and religious organizations which have stepped up their efforts to fight the scourge in their own congregations- keep your voices loud. Lastly, I wish to express my gratitude to you Madam CS for your decision to launch these documents. It is a strong statement on your desire to see the country steadily march towards ending HIV and AIDS.

Asanteni.