



COUNTY GOVERNMENT – EMBU COUNTY

SPEECH

BY

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GOVERNOR EMBU COUNTY**

DURING

**THE LAUNCH OF THE KENYA AIDS RESPONSE
PROGRESS REPORT 2018**

NOVEMBER 20, 2018

Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Health, Mrs. Sicily Kariuki,

Chairperson National AIDS Control Council Ms. Angeline Siparo,

Development partners,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am greatly humbled to host you today during the launch of the Kenya AIDS Response Progress Report 2018. The choice of Embu County to launch this important National HIV report reaffirms the commitment by the two levels of Government in the provision of quality health services to our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, over the past few years we have witnessed a positive trajectory against HIV and AIDS thanks to the continued collaboration among stakeholders in the country. Communities who bear the greatest brunt of the pandemic are now on the fore front of the AIDS response a factor that has seen a united and vibrant society against the scourge.

However, as a county government we are aware of the devastating effects of the pandemic to the socio-economic well-being and prosperity of our people. My Government has thus continued to take decisive actions as it strives to curb the pandemic. We have invested in impactful community driven interventions geared towards empowering communities' response to the pandemic. Our decisions are informed by past experiences in the response against HIV which has taught us lessons that are shaping our interventions. We are now better equipped and wiser.

Our Chief Guest, our county HIV interventions are in line with the County AIDS Strategic Plan developed by county stakeholders under the stewardship of the National AIDS Control Council that provided technical support. The Plan is guiding our planning, resource mobilization and allocation as well as HIV programming. We are witnessing significant progress against the pandemic. Latest data reveals significant reduction of new infections in the general public. AIDS related deaths have also reduced drastically over years. Alarming however is the rise of new infections among young people below 14 years. We cannot afford this situation. We have to curb the new infections.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my Government has allocated Ksh 1,000,000 during this Financial Year 2018/2019 geared towards supporting the implementation of HIV programmes. This is line with my commitment to front load resources towards ending HIV and AIDS in the county. I want to direct the Health Department and other stakeholders to prudently use the resources in curbing unprecedented rise of new infections among young people.

We have realigned our health sector as we strive to position the county towards the attainment of Universal Health Coverage -one of the National Government development priorities espoused under the Big Four Agenda. We have thus steadily increased investment towards the provision of quality health services in our facilities. Notably, we have expanded Embu Referral hospital with a 12 bed capacity intensive care unit section and a 12 bed high dependency unit. We are also refurbishing six, level four hospitals and equipping them with modern facilities as we seek to decongest our referral hospital.

Ladies and Gentlemen, to end HIV and AIDS we need concerted efforts by different stakeholders. We have to work together in order to break the back of the pandemic. I am certain that with these investments in the health sector, we are firmly on course in not only eradicating HIV and AIDS in the county, but also in ensuring that we provide good quality and affordable health services to our people.

Once again on behalf of my Government and the People of Embu County I want to thank most sincerely the Cabinet Secretary for Health and the National AIDS Control Council for choosing to launch the KARP Report in Embu County.

Asanteni sana.....