



**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

**SPEECH**

**BY**

**THE CHAIRMAN FOR EDUCATION, GENDER SPORTS, CULTURE  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNORS**

**PROF. PAUL CHEPKWONY**

**DURING**

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

**JULY 28, 2016**

**H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya,  
Cabinet Secretaries Present,  
Fellow Governors,  
Mr. Nick Mwendwa, FKF President,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen...**

It is indeed an honour to be part of this occasion as H.E. the President Uhuru Kenyatta receives the Trophies for the on-going Maisha County League.

Your Excellency, we have made many strides in the fight against HIV as a country, but we still have a long way to go. Counties, led by Governors have taken leadership in their HIV response. The National AIDS Control Council has worked with all Counties over the last 4 months to develop County AIDS Strategic Plans. I am pleased to inform you that Kericho County was the first to launch its AIDS Strategic plan and we are committed to putting resources to address our HIV epidemic. So far, 46 Counties have finalized and validated their County AIDS Strategic Plans and 5 Counties have launched.

**Your Excellency,**

This commitment is because the Council of Governors recognizes that HIV and AIDS is still a challenge for us. As Kenyan leaders, it is clear that we can either choose to stand on the side-lines and watch our young people suffer HIV stigma and discrimination; or we can

synergize our efforts and collectively invest our resources to change the course of HIV especially among our youth.

We have made a stand. As the custodians of Health service delivery in Kenya, the Council of Governors is committed towards ensuring that every citizen can easily access quality and affordable healthcare. We will influence the conversation about HIV and AIDS awareness and drive our Counties towards reducing stigma and discrimination. The targets that have been set out for reaching young people with HIV education and with HIV testing are targets that we have committed to achieving by December 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

This was demonstrated at the launch of the Maisha County League in Kericho County. Thanks to the occasion, we managed to get 433 people tested of HIV and the six that tested HIV positive were linked to treatment. That was only the beginning. 23 Counties have already started their football games within the Counties and services are on-going. We will continue to partner and work with the National AIDS Control Council, FKF and other partners to use football to reach our common goals of HIV control.

I take this opportunity to call upon our development and implementing partners in the Counties, as well as our private sector colleagues to support the Maisha County League through dedicating resources and supporting service delivery to ensure that we achieve the bold targets that have been set for the campaign. Importantly, we as leaders must continue to preach anti-stigma and discrimination messages.

**Your Excellency,**

The Council of Governors fully supports the Maisha County League. My fellow governors and I are happy that you have committed your time to host all of us here and look forward to the competitions. We expect that the inter-county competitions will be tough and we expect that our Departments of Sports and Health work towards the highest levels of performance for each County.

We will ensure that the Technical Working Groups, to be chaired by our County Executive Committee members of Sports and with membership from Health are functional at the Counties to deliver these targets. We look forward to World AIDS Day when we hold the football finals and when you award the best performing Counties.

**Thank you.**