



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYANDARUA
OFFICE OF H.E. THE GOVERNOR



**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR FRANCIS KIMEMIA E.G.H.,
C.B.S, DURING THE BEYOND ZERO MEDICAL SAFARI PRESIDED OVER
BY THE NATIONAL FIRST LADY HER EXCELLENCY MARGARET
KENYATTA, EGH, AT ENGINEER STADIUM ON 15TH AUGUST, 2019**

**Your Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Margaret
Kenyatta;
The Excellences County First Ladies, led by (Amb.) Ann T. Kimemia;
Cabinet Secretaries Present;
Hon. Members of Parliament Present;
The County Commissioner,
Hon. Speaker of the County Assembly of Nyandarua,
County Executive Committee Members present;
Hon. Members of the County Assembly;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Your Excellency, I am greatly honoured and indeed privileged to welcome you and your entire entourage for the Beyond Zero Medical Safari – to the wonderful County of Nyandarua.

Your visit to this County comes at a time when we are experiencing great socio-economic and political transformation and favorable rankings; we are now a trend-setting and winners in leadership and development that I will highlight later.

Being here with us today, and reaching out to the people of Nyandarua, and especially on matters of Health, a critical Pillar of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big Four agenda, is an honor and privilege we take with great appreciation. We do not take this choice for granted. We thank God that you chose to come to Nyandarua, God's Resting Place, and wish you and your family and whole entourage blessings of peace, love and joy, and hope that you come again and severally.

From the onset, on behalf of the people of Nyandarua, I thank you for the first Beyond Zero mobile clinic which has made health services accessible to thousands of people in our County. I also wish to thank the County First Lady, under whose support the County managed to receive a second Beyond Zero clinic two years ago, Courtesy of the late Karanja Kabage. May he Rest in Peace.

This free Medical Safari, whose major focus is on treatment of Fistula, and diagnosing various illnesses affecting our people could not have come at a better time. As a County, only two months ago, we launched Nyandarua Care – a health financing programme, under NHIF, which seeks to make healthcare accessible to the most vulnerable members of our society.

Your Excellency, this fully paid, Phase I of this Programme costing Ksh.30 million 5000 households (comprising over 30,000 beneficiaries) will from next week access medical services in our health facilities across the County and Country. This County has one of the lowest NHIF enrollment and a campaign was commenced to catapult enrolment. I urge NHIF to activate the Cards without further delays. This is one of health intervention among others, seeking to transform Nyandarua into affordable, accessible, equitable and sustainable healthcare model County.

Your Excellency, few statistics will emphasize the importance of your health-based-visit. Nyandarua is a marginalized County. The population is below the poverty line at 46.1% against national average of 45.1%.

Ironically, Nyandarua is 8th Richest County and contributor to GDP (KNBS 2019). Nyandarua is number one potato and vegetables producer; and number two Milk producer. Poverty is occasioned by lack of value addition; we have no Industrial University and never inherited any schools, hospitals or institutions from the colonial settlers, who merely exploited the agriculture-rich County.

As an example, out of 3,800Km of roads, only 250Km are tarmacked. Most are impassable during rainy season and harvests go to waste escalating poverty; only 30% of population has power and a further 35% have clean piped water yet Sasumua Dam is located about 10Kms away; less than 30% have Secondary education and 22% of our kids either suffer from malnutrition or are stunted. Milk is the key daily income earning commodity and most of it is sold to meet daily needs; the pyrethrum industry collapsed and incomes from milk and potato are unpredictable without value addition; and our youth constitute 60% of our County population, intelligent and very hopeful that things will get better.

I hasten to add that the Jubilee Government of H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta has partnered with County Governments to mitigate these challenges. For example, KSh. 10 billion have been allocated to construct 200Kms of additional tarmac roads; KSh. 1 Billion shillings to fast-track power connectivity (Last Mile); a promise was made for over KSh. 20 billion to construct Malewa, Pesi and Kinja mega dams; and in Njabini-Kiburu, St. Luke Dam among others.

The County is host to Mau-Mau caves and also 30 Colonial Villages. With the historic marginalization that I have mentioned, it is clear Nyandarua needs an Economic Recover Marshal Plan. At the look of things, the County looks and appears very okay, but that is not the reality. People are very friendly, industrious, God fearing and very hopeful even amidst economic and social vagaries of life.

Undoubtedly, there is a symbiotic nexus between poverty and bad health and it is my pledge to restore the dignity of our people.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests:

The journey of transforming healthcare in Nyandarua is long from being completed, and more lies ahead. With the little available resources, my Government has managed to achieve great milestones and the fruits are evident in each and every health facility across the County through interventions such as:

First, doubling of the Health Facilities through sustained resources allocation where we have managed to construct 13 (thirteen) new health facilities where none existed before (Kanguu, Kangubiri, Matura, Oloimutia, Matindiri, Munoru, Gathiriga, Kieni, Kihuha, Kimathi, Gichungo, Muhakaini and Charagita);

Second, besides upgrading our two main hospitals – J.M Memorial and Engineer County Level 4 and Level 5 Hospitals – we are also upgrading four more health centers to Levels 5 and 4 hospitals, and major works are ongoing as follows:

First, Ndaragwa Health Center where major upgrading is ongoing (and already an ambulance procured) is set to be upgraded to Level 5 as pronounced by H.E the President in August, 2017;

Second, In Manunga Health Center, a twin theater is under construction with additional ambulances in Wanjohi and Geta;

Third, In Bamboo Health Center, construction of a twin theater and a casualty wing is at an advanced stage;

Fourth, Njabini Health Center is set to be upgraded to Level 4 as announced recently by the National Government on 27th July, 2019;

Fifth, Continuous recruitment of Health Care Workers where: 81 were recruited in 2017/2018; about 43 in 2018/2019; and 136 in 2019/2020 to further bridge the patient-doctor ratio in the County. The Cuban Doctors have also been very helpful.

Sixth, Availability of adequate Essential Medicines and Commodities in our facilities through funding and close monitoring of the supply systems. Each year, we commit over Ksh.136 million in medical services County-wide.

Pilferage of drugs is on the decline and a Manual and digital tracking system is supplementing this.

Seventh, The Nyandarua Cancer Care Policy being finalized and lays emphasis on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, Staffing and Tooling and Training of Health Workers and provision of the essential drugs and equipment for Cancer Treatment and Care;

Eighth, Procurement and registration of three new Ambulances totaling to 12 in County, to ensure rapid response and access to Emergency Care. These ambulances will be deployed at Ndaragwa, Shamata and Karangatha (*giving Kinangop an extra making them three in the sub-county*). My target is one Ambulance in each of the 25 Wards, leaving a balance of 13 more.

I request your Excellency, in your characteristic mercy and kindness to the needy, to donate some ambulances to the County.

Ninth, The Beyond Zero Mobile Clinics have greatly improved access and reach of health services in the remotest parts of the County. Again, we sincerely thank Your Excellency. Two Beyond Zero clinics reach about 200 people every day, improving healthcare and saving lives of thousands of our needy people's in our villages across the County;

Tenth, In an inter-departmental approach, we have ensured that all our health facilities have essential public goods and services – reliable water supply including sinking of boreholes in several facilities or in close proximity; connection to the national grid where we have a matching fund with Rural Electrification Authority in which priority will go to those health facilities without electricity; and improvement of access roads to all our facilities. The County has procured Transformers to address Needy Remote locations;

Eleventh, The Department of Agriculture, is promoting organic cultivation of healthy crops and healthy eating habits; check-ups; and lifestyle balances; to curb County prevalent diseases such as Diabetes, High Blood Pressure,

Upper Respiratory Infections, (URTI), Arthritis, Heart and Kidney ailments and Cancer; and,

Twelve; Equipping of our health facilities with modern technology, tools and equipment. As a County Government, we have committed over Ksh. 10 million towards equipment purchase and upgrade while over Ksh. 136 million has been committed in the current Financial Year under the Managed Equipment Services programme;

We have also committed over **Ksh. 110 million** towards physical health infrastructure and timely improved customer-care management and resolution of complaints. We will roll-out a Rapid Results Initiative, to sensitize staff and publics on modern health management systems that leverage accountability and professionalism across the medico – value chain from Dispensary to Level 5’s leveraging modern technology.

Your Excellency, we have shared with the Ministry of Health comprehensive transformation strategy for the Health Sector, that seeks support in additional specialized medical – staff, equipment, modern technology, upgrading Dispensaries to Health Centers Level 3,4, and 5; and provision of grants targeting people in extremely difficult medical and economic circumstances bearing in mind the historic marginalization of the County and very high levels of poverty.

The above, Your Excellency, are just but a few of the many life changing healthcare interventions we have managed. And as a County, we take pride in the strides made so far. We will allocate more funds to Health Sector to benchmark against the very best despite our meager budget and myriad demands and very high expectation.

As we celebrate these milestones, we remain open to partnerships, like the one we have today, which ultimately seek to improve the lives of our very needy people.

As a County Government, we are committed to full success of the Big Four, and especially healthcare which is a key pillar. Please assure His Excellency the President that our CIDP 2 has mainstreamed the Four Pillars, all we need is the go-ahead and funding to implement and fast-track the Pillars without further delay.

Your Excellency, the great people of Nyandarua have directed me to kindly request that **you consider and approve becoming the Patron for Engineer Hospital and Special Partner and Mother of this County.**

We know you are a woman of great substance, a mother of firsts and everything you touch finds favor everywhere. This is not a flatter; evidence is here with us!

Your Excellency will also note that World Bank ranked Nyandarua the Best County and we were gifted with nearly KSh. 600 million that we are using to start-off the Potato Processing Plant. The Auditor General gave Nyandarua and Makueni Counties a clean audit report. The Kenya National Bureau of Standards ranked Nyandarua as the most improved County and also the County to invest - and all these rankings within 18 months in office as Governor.

Nationally, Nyandarua has been recognized: as the Governor, I chair the 10 Counties comprising the Central Region (Mt. Kenya) Economic Block (CEREB); Our lady MCA – Hon. Milkah Wanjiku chairs the Women MCA Caucus; the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Mary Mugwanja, Chairs the Finance CECs' Caucus; and yesterday, the Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Ndegwa Wahome, was sworn in as the Chair of National County Assemblies Forum after very competitive elections, among others.

Indeed, this is the only County with two Governors: H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta and myself as we agreed in Shamata in 2017. This is, therefore, the best County to adopt – a County of firsts.

In summary, my humble requests are thus three-fold:

- **First**, that Your Excellency donates some ambulances to the County;
- **Second**, that Your Excellency adopts Engineer Hospital; and,
- **Third**, Your Excellency be special Partner and Mother of this County.

Please pass our sincere greetings, best regards and wishes to H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta and family. We love you all and remain greatest supporters of His Excellency's Government as evidenced in 2013 and 2017 where we gave the highest vote to H.E. the President, at 99.6. Assure H.E. the President that Nyandarua is enjoying unprecedented focus, commitment and investment in peace and development for the prosperity of our people.

Once again, it is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you to Nyandarua, and above all, for this Medical Safari which benefits our people.

Thank you and God Bless you, Bless the County and our country, Kenya.