

H.E THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH
CLOSING CEREMONY FOR HEALTH WORKERS
INDUCTION AT KEBIRIGO HIGH SCHOOL

12th April 2016

- H.E. the Deputy Governor Hon. Amos Nyaribo
- The County Executive Members
- The Vice Chairlady and Members of the County Public Service Board
- The Aphia Plus Officials Present
- County Government of Nyamira Officers and Staff
- The Principal Kebirigo High School
- The Newly Recruited Healthworkers
- Members of The Fourth Estate
- Distinguished Guests

Hamjambo?

Today is a very special day for our County. Since inception of the County Governments, our beloved county of Nyamira has great strides have been made in all sectors as mandated by the Constitution of Kenya which we so overwhelmingly voted for in

the year 2010. One of the objects of devolution as stated in Article 174 (sub-article f) is the promotion of social and economic development through the provision of easily accessible services to the people of Kenya. Nothing exemplifies this more than the exercise for which we are gathered here today.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

On the 8th of January 2016, we gathered in this very room to flag off more than two hundred and thirty (230) health workers recruited by my Government. On that day, I did promise more good news in as far as staffing of the health sector is concerned. Today, that promise is fulfilled as we meet here yet again to mark the end of the process of competitive recruitment of about one hundred and fifty five (155) contractual health workers, an exercise that has been going on over the last three (3) months. Out of more than one thousand (1000) applicants, these 155 from diverse backgrounds and regions have been lucky to get the chance to serve in the Nyamira County Public Service and for this, **I say Congratulations** to you all.

I take this early opportunity to pass my most sincere gratitude to the USAID-funded AphiaPlus Western Kenya Project which is supporting the recruitment and payment of salaries of these health workers. It is said in Health Economics that *“our health needs are limitless but the resources to provide the same are limited”*. With this background, we as a Government and as the people of Nyamira realize that we cannot fully dispense of our mandates without the support of development partners and other stakeholders. Within the next one year or so, the AphiaPlus Western Kenya Project will be spending approximately K. Shs 54 Million on these health workers. This is money our County does not currently have and for this, **tunasema Asante Sana**.

I am aware there are numerous activities centred around the HIV/Aids theme that AphiaPlus Western Kenya Project is involved in within Nyamira County. I hereby assure the Project that my Government shall continue to work with you hand-in-hand and accord you all the support you need in your activities. The Department of Health Services is hereby instructed to duly take note.

Over the last three years, my government has been on an ambitious infrastructural improvement exercise of constructing or renovating more than eighty two (82) health facilities across the county. To-date some of them have been completed and opened whereas others are at various stages of completion. Whereas this has improved our capacity to deliver healthcare services to our people, it has also overstretched our health workforce which has faced serious gaps over the last fifty years post-independence. These newly recruited Officers shall be posted to all sub-counties within Nyamira and will greatly help bridge these existing gaps.

Of all the seven building blocks of the Nyamira Healthcare Strategic and Investment Plan 2013-2018, the human resource is the most important. Without an effective, efficient and motivated workforce, we cannot achieve equitable socio-economic development that is catalyzed by a healthy population. It is for this reason that my government has plans of making budgetary provisions for the transition of these contractual staff into permanent and pensionable terms at the end of the contract

period. I must however remind you that this transitioning shall be based purely on your individual performance during your contracts. Laxity, indiscipline, absenteeism, poor customer service and any other acts of misdemeanor and/or misbehavior will unfortunately not be considered as good performance. I urge you all to serve diligently and observe high levels of integrity at your work. I take this early opportunity to advise each one of you to familiarize and practice the principles and values of public service contained in Article 232 of the Constitution. We expect nothing less.

Ladies and Gentlemen it is important to remind ourselves that a healthy county is a productive county. My government will continue to invest heavily in the other building blocks of the health sector including procurement of medical and non-medical commodities for our health facilities, infrastructure improvements and procurement of medical equipments among others. Tenders for construction of an 80-bed amenity wing with a doctors' plaza and a modern 3-operation room theatre at the Nyamira Referral Hospital, the construction of an X-Ray Unit,

Operation Theatre and Maternity Wards at Nyansiongo Sub-County Hospital and that of an Operation Theatre at Nyamusi Sub-County Hospital are currently underway. X-Ray Services have been started at Keroka and Ekerenyo Sub-County Hospitals whereas X-Ray Machines have been delivered to Manga and Nyansiongo Sub-County Hospitals ready for installation. Ultrasound services are being operationalized in all our sub-county hospitals courtesy of the medical equipment donations we recently received from Europe and our planned upgrade of Nyamira County Referral Hospital is well on course. The people of Nyamira County are surely enjoying the fruits of devolution. I urge all Nyamira residents to be patient and support us as we make maximum efforts to improve our social and economic status through various projects and programmes.

I wish the new workers the very best as they begin their careers. Let us partner together and exploit the vast opportunities of this beloved *County of Possibilities*.

God bless Nyamira, God bless Kenya.