

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SPEECH BY H.E PROF. PETER ANYANG'

NYONG'O EGH, GOVERNOR KISUMU COUNTY

DURING THE LAUNCH OF "MARWA KISUMU

SOLIDARITY HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME",

JOOTRH, KISUMU.

October 16th, 2020

The County Commissioner – Madam Josephine Ouko,
NHIF Chief Executive Officer - Dr. Peter Kamunyo
PharmAccess CEO -
Members of County Assembly present,
Distinguished guests from partner organizations
County and National Government Officers present,
Members of the Fourth Estate,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

Allow me to tell you a little story to demonstrate the importance of the ceremony we are conducting here this morning.

On Monday last week, Mr. Simeon Juma Ogwae, a 74-year-old man from Kandaria village in Nyakach had a boda boda accident. He was rushed to the nearby Kandaria dispensary where he was treated and discharged. By Tuesday the following day, Mr. Ogwae however developed complications and could neither talk or walk.

His wife Elizabeth, had no money to take him to hospital for further review.

A good Samaritan mobilized other villagers and took Mr. Ogwae to Nyakach County hospital where he was evaluated and referred to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital. Fortunately, he had registered with the Universal Health Care (UHC). He was x-rayed and a small clot discovered in his head. Mr. Ogwae has now recovered and is back home in Kandaria.

We pray for his quick full recovery.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mzee Ogwae is alive today because of the Universal Health Care and a working healthcare system right from the village through to the referral hospital.

Financing health care is very expensive and torturous. Hospital Bills have left many families poorer.

It is stories like that of Mzee Ogwae that made us look beyond UHC to introduce a robust health Insurance scheme to cater for the vulnerable families across the county.

After consultations, we have named this new scheme- ***Marwa Kisumu Solidarity Health Insurance Scheme***. Marwa simply means “Ours”.

We are gathered here today to present a cheque of Ksh 67m to the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) which will execute this scheme on our behalf and to unveil its logo.

The Sh 67.5 million we are presenting today will cover some 45,000 vulnerable beneficiaries in the first quarter of the scheme. The second will follow thereafter.

The issuance of the cheque follows a memorandum of understanding the County Government signed with NHIF in August 2020.

I also wish to sincerely thank FarmAcess which has helped us navigate through the journey offering both technical and material support culminating to today’s function.

I am happy to report that my government has indeed invested resources in healthcare to ensure that the county enjoys functional healthcare provision to competently respond to cases like Mr. Ogwae's and get him back to his feet immediately. But should "functional" be the word?

More needs to be done!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This launch of *Marwa Kisumu Solidarity Health Insurance Scheme* and the issuance of this cheque marks a great stride in fulfilling the promise we made to the people of Kisumu not only to provide them with accessible healthcare but also ensure access to quality, affordable and timely healthcare provision for all as outlined in my manifesto. This vision has since been anchored in the Kisumu County Health Act, 2019.

Through this scheme, the indigent population in Kisumu county will be provided with medical insurance in fulfilment of their constitutional right to access healthcare. It will also ease their burden of direct cash spending on healthcare services which are quite expensive rendering them vulnerable and with no options.

We have a responsibility to the great people of this county who for one reason or the other cannot make contributions into any medical scheme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the registration for the UHC pilot, in partnership with Pharmaccess, we carried out a scientific survey to determine the vulnerable families within our communities upon which a total of 90,000 indigents were identified. It is this number we are working with for the Marwa Medical Scheme. We shall begin with 45,000 in the first phase and later roll out the remaining 45,000 come the second phase.

NHIF is equally very important in this process, as without them we would not be launching the scheme today.

The scheme does not replace but is complimentary to the UHC program objectives of ensuring that there is sustainability and quality in healthcare provision to all Kenyans.

Beneficiaries of the health insurance scheme will start accessing both inpatient and outpatient care under the NHIF SupaCover benefits package at 45 public health facilities spread across the seven sub-counties.

In order to ensure smooth running of operations for the scheme, the scheme's funds will be ring-fenced to ensure timely capitation and reimbursements in order not to inconvenience the beneficiaries at the hour of need.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Covid -19 pandemic has also taught us many lessons. Through our experience, we have learnt how fast households can be eroded of their capacities to meet their daily needs and more importantly, access to quality health services. This is why we have moved with speed to actualize the new insurance model to cushion the vulnerable through our well thought out Post Covid-19 household economic recovery program.

At this point ladies and gentlemen,

Let me also report that as a government, we are also focusing on a more holistic approach to ensure that we reduce cases of hospital visits by continually strengthening primary healthcare. This we are doing by investing in championing promotive and preventive healthcare as opposed to curative health which is more cash intensive. We want our people to adopt preventive mechanisms to

reduce the number of times they visit need to visit the health facilities.

To this end, we have ensured that our community health workers are well resourced and trained to deliver on their mandate. We are also strengthening interdepartmental collaborations within the county to spearhead the process of ensuring that citizens have access to clean, accessible and affordable portable water; ensuring that our county remain food secure by strengthening household economies and providing the necessary governance structures at the local level for easy implementation of health-conscious policies.

In conclusion ladies and gentlemen,

The WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus once said, *“Universal health coverage is not a luxury that only rich countries can afford. All countries can make progress with the resources they have. That means universal health coverage is not an economic choice. It’s a political choice”*.

We are focused to make progress with the resources we have because for us it is as much an economic choice as any other. Our resolve to this journey remains unshakable; our commitment to our people ever more resolute.

I want to say a big thank you to our partners Pharmaccess and NHIF for their technical, material and logistical support that has culminated to the realization of this scheme.

With those remarks, ladies and gentlemen I give you “**Marwa**”!

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