

**TALKING POINTS FOR CEO DR. KELLY OLUOCH, DURING THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 8TH KENYA MEDICAL TRAINING
COLLEGE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AT THE NURSING ASSEMBLY
ON 4TH JUNE 2025.**

Salutations

- Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Aden Duale
- Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Ms. Mary Muthoni
- Board Chairperson Mr. Joseah K. Cheruiyot
- Board members present
- CEO Dr. Kelly Oluoch
- Keynote address speaker Prof. Sylvester Kimaiyo
- All speakers present
- Online participants
- KMTC Staff and students
- Members of the fourth estate

Good morning,

1. Warm welcome and opening remarks

- Good morning and welcome to the 8th Biennial KMTC Scientific Conference.
- Special welcome to our Chief Guest, Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary for Health.
- Warm greetings to our Board of Directors, Ministry officials, researchers, students, and participants joining us physically and virtually.
- Thank you all for honoring our invitation and standing with KMTC in this critical journey.

2. About KMTC

- KMTC is the largest middle-level medical training institution in East Africa.
- We now have 90 campuses across the country.
- We graduate over 20,000 students annually, who make up more than 85 percent of Kenya's middle-level healthcare workforce.
- Our programs continue to grow, informed by national needs and global health trends.

3. Burden and Expectations on KMTC

- KMTC carries a huge national responsibility to meet rising healthcare demands
- We face real challenges:
 - Staffing shortfalls.
 - Limited clinical placement opportunities.
 - Resource gaps in equipping campuses.
- We appeal for continued support from the Ministry of Health and partners to help us bridge these gaps.

4. About the conference

- The Scientific Conference is a platform for knowledge sharing, policy influence, and innovation.
- This year's theme, "*Advancing Health Equity in a Rapidly Changing Environment*," is grounded in the realities of today.
- The theme calls us to action to create solutions that reflect changing health patterns and persistent inequities.

5. What's new this year

- 36 research papers and 11 poster presentations from staff.
- A rigorous review process was undertaken to ensure quality.
- 4 students will present their work this year, a remarkable improvement from just one in past conferences.
- For the first time, we are hosting presenters from six countries: Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Hungary, Canada, and the USA.
- This marks KMTC's rising visibility and credibility in global research circles.

6. Research at the core of KMTC

- At KMTC, research is central to our mission.
- Science Week is now part of our academic calendar to nurture a structured research culture.
- We have appointed research champions in every campus to coordinate, mentor, and drive evidence-based engagement.

7. Strategic direction for research

- KMTC has launched a comprehensive Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy.
- This will guide our efforts in advancing research, promoting innovation, and commercializing solutions.
- Our goal is to build capacity among staff and students and generate research with real-world impact.

8. Linking research to policy and practice

- Research outcomes from this conference will be synthesized into policy briefs.
- These will inform decisions both within the College and at the national level.
- We are committed to ensuring that knowledge leads to transformation in academia and service delivery.

9. Our subthemes reflect national priorities

- Health professions education.
- Health care financing.
- Digital transformation and artificial intelligence.
- Climate change and health.
- Health, disease, and wellness.
- Health research in advancing care.
- These subthemes align with the core goals of Universal Health Coverage and equity in care.
- Special focus has been placed on vulnerable and underserved communities.

10. The role of research in student development

- Research sharpens critical thinking, enhances learning, and cultivates lifelong problem solvers.

- It empowers students to challenge existing norms and drive the future of healthcare.
- For our staff, it encourages exploration and leadership in health systems innovation.

11. Appreciation

- Deep gratitude to the KMTC Research Committee for excellently planning this conference.
- Sincere thanks to the Ministry of Health, led by the CS, our Board of Directors, the Management team, dedicated staff, students, and stakeholders for your steadfast support.

12. Final words

- Beyond knowledge, this conference offers an opportunity for connection and collaboration.
- I wish all participants fruitful engagements, meaningful dialogue, and actionable outcomes over the next three days.

Thank you, and invite the Board Chairperson.

