

**SPEECH BY THE KENYA MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE BOARD
DIRECTOR AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCE, PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MR. FREDRICK WAMWAKI, DURING
THE OPENING OF SIXTH KMTC SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE HELD AT
THE KMTC HEADQUARTERS NAIROBI ON JUNE 2, 2021 AT 9:00 AM.**

Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Health Dr. Rashid Aman

Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Health Dr. Mercy Mwangangi

KMTC Board of Directors

KMTC Management

Representatives of Government entities

Development Partners

Conference Committee and presenters

Faculty, Staff and Students

Online audience, Ladies and Gentlemen

Our **Guest of Honor Sir**, I am delighted to stand before you today, during this important occasion in the calendar of KMTC – the Sixth Biennial Scientific Conference.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of KMTC, I take this opportunity to welcome you to this Conference.

The KMTC Board of Directors is committed to supporting the Government achieve UHC. For this reason, the College's 2018-2023 Strategic period is aligned with the Government's agenda of UHC for all Kenyans by 2022, and sets KMTC on a path to ensure contribution to better health care through Training of Competent Health professionals, consultancy and research services.

This year's conference comes at a time when Kenya and indeed the world at large is facing a difficult and unprecedented challenge of coping with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to prepare for the inevitable emergence of new diseases.

I'm glad to report that even through this turbulent times, the College has been steadfast and resilient, in the delivery of its mandate.

The College continues to uphold Presidential directives and the Ministry of Health's protocols in supporting the Government combat the Coronavirus epidemic as well as ensuring compliance with the Head of Public Service circulars on workplace guidelines.

We, therefore, must use such opportunities as the one presented in this Conference to amplify our readiness to stay ahead of any emerging epidemics.

Guest of Honor Sir

I am aware that this conference involves all stakeholders in the training of health workers in Kenya and beyond. These includes Lecturers, Administrators, Healthcare workers, Staff, Students, among others.

These are individuals and institutions that the Board believes share a common vision of improving healthcare through research for the benefit of the Kenyan people.

The theme of the Scientific Conference, *“Optimizing Training and Research Attainment of Universal Quality Health Coverage in the wake of COVID-19”*, pertinently captures the role that research plays in ensuring quality training in the healthcare sector.

It also positions the College to more deliberately develop new knowledge to solve the challenges that continually arise in the dynamic healthcare sector, including recommending tangible strategies to tackle emerging pandemics such as COVID-19.

Guest of Honor Sir

The Board started the journey of reviewing instruments of governance at the College in 2016. I am happy to report that H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta assented to the Health Bill 2018, which is now an Act of Parliament, consequently amending the KMTC Act of 1990.

The amendments are in line with the Constitution 2010, the Kenya Health Policy Direction, the Code of Governance for State Corporations - Mwongozo, the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, 2015 and presidential directives issued from time to time. The amendments also created more departmental functions in the College including that of research and Innovation, and supports the KMTC expansion programme and service delivery.

We have since put in place the required framework to operationalize the research function and allocated a budget to support research activities.

In the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, the College plans to undertake research in disciplines and matters approved by the Academic Council either directly or through the medium of connected universities, or other colleges, schools, or institutions.

I thank my fellow Board Directors for initiating a process which led to re-categorization of the College from PC level 2 to PC level 4A, consequently expanding our mandate to include that of Research, in addition to Training and Consultancy.

Further, the Board has put in place various Policy frameworks to strengthen internal processes and procedures, to ensure compliance with existing Laws and regulations, as well as align with emerging government reforms. These include the Research Policy whose key objective is to encourage creativity and innovation while guiding the application of relevant scientific knowledge and new technologies in areas of health training, research and consultancy.

Thanks to the Policy, our Students are thoroughly imparted with the necessary skills and knowledge to participate in research activities that play a role in the detection, identification, and conduct of research on ecological and environmental factors influencing disease emergence and transmission.

The Students are therefore equipped to become an asset and provide solutions for this country and beyond for generations to come.

Guest of Honor Sir,

The Government through the able leadership of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta has made Universal Health Coverage one of the key agendas.

This agenda requires the concerted efforts of every player in the healthcare sector, and the KMTC Board has been at the forefront to actualize it.

KMTC is the Government's strategic training arm for the health sector, currently accounting for more than 85% percent of the workforce in the sector in Kenya.

The existence of 71 Campuses in 43 out of the 47 Counties in the country places us not only on a pedestal in the health sector agenda, but also places on our shoulders a huge responsibility to consciously seek for local solutions to health challenges facing our people.

As I conclude Guest of Honor Sir

I wish to sincerely thank our development partners; without whose invaluable support we would not be where we are today.

We will continue strengthening our partnership and working together more closely in the area of research and seek solutions to some of the problems facing the health sector.

Guest of Honor Sir

I thank the College Management Team and Staff led by the CEO for their dedication in the day to day running of the College and for organizing this Conference.

My gratitude goes to the Board of Directors for providing leadership and ensuring proper governance systems and procedures are in place to move the College to greater heights.

Special appreciation to you Bwana Chief Administrative Secretary for always being available whenever we need to consult with your Office.

Please convey our regards to the Ministry of Health led by the Cabinet Secretary Sen. Mutahi Kagwe, for the support and guidance, enabling us achieve our Vision of “Being a Model Institution in the Training and Development of Competent Health Professionals”.

Guest of Honor Sir

On behalf of the KMTC Board of Directors, Management, Staff, Students and stakeholders, I thank H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, for the support towards growth of the College, enabling us realize our mandate. The President has offered direction to the country and more specifically on Universal Health Coverage, to which the College is committed, through training of Human Resource for Health.

It is now my honor and duty to welcome the Chief Administrative Secretary Dr. Rashid Aman to address us.

Karibu Bwana CAS.

Thank you.
