

**SPEECH BY THE KMTC CHAIRPERSON PROF. PHILIP KALOKI, EBS,  
ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
EXTENSION WORKERS HELD AT THE KMTC GRADUATION  
SQUARE NAIROBI ON 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021 AT 11:00 AM**

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**Chief Guest, Ag. Director General Ministry of Health, Dr. Patrick Amoth**

**KMTC Chief Executive Officer Prof. Michael Kiptoo**

**IntraHealth Country Director Dr. Janet Muriuki**

**Representatives of various Government Entities**

**Development Partners**

**CHEWs Graduating Class of April 2021 and their families**

**Members of the Fourth Estate**

**Faculty, Staff and students**

**Online audience**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

## **Guest of Honor Sir,**

It is my honor to welcome you to the Kenya Medical Training College to preside over the 1<sup>st</sup> Graduation Ceremony for Community Health Extension Workers.

I congratulate the graduands for this significant achievement, despite the interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Well done! We are proud of you!

Today's ceremony comes a day after we held our 89<sup>th</sup> Graduation, where the College released 7,509 health workers to the job market, key in achieving UHC.

This ceremony's theme of **“Supporting UHC and the President's Big Four Agenda through training of Community Health Personnel)”** is in line with the College's mandate. We train and develop competent Healthcare Professionals to meet the country's health workforce gaps, for the common good of our great country.

This ceremony comes at a time when we are faced with the COVID-19 menace which has affected all aspects of life. I'm glad to report that even through this turbulent times, the College has been steadfast and resilient, in the delivery of its mandate.

To comply with Order No. 2 issued on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, allowing KMTC to continue with Teaching and Learning, we have put in place the necessary measures and continue to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19, in over 450 hospitals located in all the counties.

## **Guest of Honor Sir**

The College has availed its facilities and Medical Lecturers to complement government efforts in the fight against the Coronavirus in the country.

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.

**Guest of Honor Sir,**

KMTC has 71 campuses spread across 45 out of the 47 counties in the country, with over 51,000 continuing Students. The College graduates an average of 11,000 health professionals annually, effectively bridging Human Resource for Health gaps.

KMTC has partnered with County Governments to train for the County's identified health needs and disease patterns. I am glad to report that the 56 Community Health Extension Workers we are graduating today are from the counties with the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the country. These are Turkana, Migori, Baringo, Nakuru, Kakamega, Uasin Gishu, Kilifi, Nairobi, Kisumu, Kitui, and Samburu. Indeed, this graduates will play a critical role in enhancing community health services, key in achievement of UHC.

**Guest of Honor Sir,**

In line with College's transformative agenda, the KMTC Board of Directors has spearheaded efforts to enhance resource mobilization initiatives and strengthen collaboration with development partners.

These efforts are aimed at strengthening collaboration and identifying more innovative strategies and solutions to building as well as sustaining partnerships for mutually beneficial outcomes.

These efforts are supported by a policy framework already developed by the Board and put in place for coordinated and concerted efforts to achieve greater impact and sustainability in resource mobilization and collaboration.

It is in the spirit of Collaboration that KMTC joined hands with IntraHealth HRH Kenya Mechanism to support training for Community Health Extension Workers.

Another aspect of this collaboration is the Afya Elimu Fund implemented through HELB which has revolutionised access to training opportunities for health workers through provision of affordable loans.

I note with appreciation that as at December 2020, Afya Elimu Fund had supported over 35,000 Medical Training students countrywide at a total of USD 25.8 million with USAID contributing 18.32% of the total amount. KMTC is the biggest beneficiary of the Afya Elimu Fund, receiving 80% of the annual allocation, which has benefitted over 28,000 of our students.

Our resource mobilization efforts are in line with the need to mobilize more funds to meet the growing demand as well as ensure the fund achieves revolvability even as we plan for sustainability of the Afya Elimu Fund with the cessation of USAID funding and reduction of government capitation fund.

The College has enhanced plans to strengthen our large base of Alumni to fund beneficiaries through an Alumni Endowment Fund. We also call upon our County Governments to take up the role of funding this beneficiaries, since the success of healthcare delivery is largely dependent on community health services.

**To our graduands,**

The country is relying on you to deliver patient-centered Healthcare services to all Kenyans at all times. I therefore urge you to remain focused on your goal in order to succeed in your undertakings in the noble profession you have chosen.

Nurture creativity and innovation in order to make lasting impact in the Healthcare service delivery in the country and beyond!

Congratulations!!!!

It is now my honor and duty to welcome Ag. Director-General, Dr. Patrick Amoth to address us.

Thank you.

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