

 NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL COUNCIL 

SPEECH BY PROF. MIRIAM K. WERE, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL COUNCIL
DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD AIDS DAY AT THE KICC, DECEMBER 1, 2007

The Chief Guest

Permanent Secretaries present,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Development partners,
Distinguished guests,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My take this opportunity to thank you all for finding time to join us in commemorating the World AIDS Day 2007.

For the past one year we have seen tremendous improving in the fight against HIV and AIDS in the country. Indeed, Kenya has been cited as one of the countries in Africa that has recorded great decline in HIV prevalence this year.

New data released a few days ago show global HIV prevalence has leveled off and that the number of new infections has fallen, in part as a result of the impact of HIV programmes. However, in 2007 33 million people were estimated to be living with HIV, 2.5 million people became newly infected and 2 million people died of AIDS.

There were an estimated 1.7 million new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa in 2007—a significant reduction since 2001. In Kenya, the national HIV and AIDS programme has registered significant progress in the past one year. The current data shows an estimated adult HIV prevalence of 5.1% in 2006, compared to 5.9% registered in 2005. The current estimate of urban prevalence is about 8.3% while rural prevalence is 4.0%

The annual number of adult AIDS deaths, in Kenya, reached a peak of about 120,000 in 2003. It would have stayed at that level for the next three years where it not for the increasing number of people

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receiving anti-retroviral therapy (ART). Treatment has reduced the annual number of AIDS deaths to about 85,000 in 2006. In 2006, the number of deaths averted due to treatment is estimated at 57,000.

Another progress realized is the drop in new infections. Incidences were estimated at 55,000 in 2006, a drop from 60,000 in 2005. Most of the new infections are occurring among young people.

Despite all the above achievements, the country remains severely affected. Results from the derived estimates here indicate that:

- 1.5 million pregnant women need counselling and testing each year to determine their HIV sero-status.
- 68,000 women need treatment to prevent Mother –to-Child-Transmission of HIV.
- 23,000 children need ART and 200,000 need cotrimoxazole prophylaxis.
- 430,000 adults require ART.
- 2.4 million orphans need care and support from their extended families and communities.
- New infections have declined to 55,000 per year i.e. 151 per day, approximately 6-7 persons per hour.
- HIV and AIDS related deaths have declined to 85,000 per year i.e. 233 per day, approximately 9-10 persons per hour.
- ART has averted about 57,000 deaths since 2001 and 35,000 between 2003 and 2006

In order to tackle these challenges and to strengthen further the national response to AIDS, Kenya has signed a credit of USD 80 million with the World Bank to support Total War on AIDS (TOWA) Project. A further USD 30 million grant is expected from UK's Department for International Development (DFID). TOWA is the first project that has brought together major development partners to pool resources to support the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2005/06- 2009/10 (KNASP). The project will finance strategic and innovative programmes as well as supporting the coordination and leadership capacity of NACC.

AND UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S CALL, "PAMOJA TUANGAMIZE UKIMWI", "TOGETHER, WE CAN DEFEAT AIDS".

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Chairman, NACC