



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY

**REMARKS BY HON. NAKHUMICHA S. WAFULA, EGH, CABINET
SECRETARY FOR HEALTH DURING THE 2ND EDITION: GLOBAL
EVENT ON HARNESSING PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT FOR
SUSTAINABLE VACCINE AND PHARMACEUTICAL
MANUFACTURING IN AFRICA HELD IN NAIROBI ON JUNE
25,2024**

**Leaders and Representatives from African and Global Pharmaceutical
Companies and Startups,**

- **Dr Jean Kaseya, the Director General of Africa CDC,**
- **Representatives from the World Health Organisation,**
- **Representatives from Pharmaceutical Industry Partners,**
- **Representatives from the German Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development,**
- **Strategic Partners in Health,**
- **Esteemed Delegates,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good Morning

It is my pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to you all to Nairobi for this Second Edition of the Global Event on Harnessing Private Sector Engagement for Sustainable Vaccine and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in Africa.

Let me start by commending the leadership from of the Africa CDC, the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) Secretariat, the World Health Organization and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for convening this strategic meeting. Your presence at this forum is evidence of your dedication and commitment towards strengthening health systems to promote increased private sector engagement and opportunities to build sustainable vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing in Africa.

This strategic meeting is building on the post-pandemic milestones African manufacturers have achieved and tapping into an ecosystem approach where Governments, Non-Governmental Organisations and the Private sector can work together to enhance the potential of our industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the First Edition of this Global Event, a broad consensus was reached on four main areas:

- Building vaccine manufacturing capacity alongside health systems strengthening,
- Biomanufacturing in Africa is critical in addressing health inequities;
- The need for a tailored strategy to consolidate supply and demand on the continent;
- The private sector as an important partner for PAVM.

Twelve months later, we are here to take stock of where we are, and to share any challenges that we may have experienced along the way. We will also discuss the innovative mitigation measures that we have deployed to strengthen our manufacturing initiatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The lessons learnt from COVID-19 illustrated to each one of us the need for self-reliance and self-sufficiency in the manufacturing of health products and technologies. Indeed, it was the Lower- and Middle-Income Countries that were the most affected by disrupted global supply chain systems, whose impact is still being felt today.

Africa's pharmaceutical industry sector has long grappled with multiple challenges including limited production capabilities and technical know-how, minimal investments by Governments and Private Enterprises, disjointed market entry and shaping strategies and lack of a harmonized pharmaceutical regulatory system.

While appreciating the progress made by the African Union and its member states in addressing these challenges, such as the operationalization of regional bodies, establishment of the Africa Medicines Agency and the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it is high time for all of us to put our money where our strategies lie.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Africa's pharmaceutical industry has been growing rapidly reaching USD 28.56 billion (KSh 2.8 trillion) in 2017 from just USD 5.5 billion a decade earlier. It is projected that this market will be somewhere between USD 56 - USD 70 billion (KSh 5-7 trillion) by 2030. This is reason enough to strategically position the continent's local pharmaceutical industry for this opportunity.

Health sector policy makers like myself, therefore, find themselves in a unique and pivotal position where they have to make business case to our trade and investment partners so as to attain health **commodity security which is critical to attaining Universal Health Coverage**. This is a task we must accomplish because we recognize the enormous potential of local manufacturing of health commodities to contribute to industrialization and to the overall economic development of our countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Challenges impeding optimization for local manufacturing on the continent include high cost of inputs, inadequate investments in research and development, lack of favourable long-term financing conditions, lack of regulatory harmonization, unfavourable procurement legislation and pooled procurement initiatives to support offtake agreements with local manufacturers, among others. We are forced to contend with over 75% of pharmaceutical imports and over 98% of vaccine imports to maintain our health commodity supply. This is not sustainable for our governments and our people.

For African nations to achieve the UN Sustainable Goal Three on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), we must coordinate our efforts to leverage on our intracontinental capacities, even as we seek global opportunities to reach the target of 60% of local vaccine manufacturing by 2040. It is also the only way we will realise the African Union priority area of development of the local pharmaceutical manufacturing and regulatory capabilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Kenya's commitment towards ensuring attainment of Universal Health Coverage is predicated on our Constitution which grants every Kenyan the right to the highest attainable standard of health and right to health care services, including emergency medical treatment. In addition, the social pillar of Vision 2030, which is our long-term development blueprint, and the Kenya Health Policy 2014-2030, also aim to provide an efficient and high-quality health care system, in line with global standards.

To operationalize these strategies, the Government of Kenya is concertedly engaging the industry and has established the Kenya BioVax Institute, a State-owned enterprise mandated to manufacture specialized health products and technologies and support local pharmaceutical industries in development and production of quality and affordable products.

In addition, a multi-sectoral approach involving health, trade, academia, and finance is being deployed to harmonize and strengthen our local pharmaceutical industry with the aim of becoming a regional pharmaceutical and biomanufacturing hub for the continent.

We are ready to play our part in the continental drive for sustainable vaccine manufacturing in Africa, with our Head of State, H.E the President Dr William Ruto as the AU champion for local manufacturing. With his guided support, Africa's health manufacturing industry will expand its market share as more excellent opportunities can be exploited.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To secure sustainability and security of our health commodities supplies, I urge all Governments, Private Sector, Non- Governmental Agencies, Financial Partners and other stakeholders represented here, to strategically champion for and support

African pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical manufacturers and collectively band our national efforts to support the attainment of Universal Health Coverage.

The call to action has never been clearer than it is now.

Africa needs to collaborate and invest more into her pharmaceutical sector- the people, the technology, the systems and most importantly, buying the product from our local manufacturers.

I encourage all of us to have honest, quality, and impactful conversations on the opportunities, the challenges and the solutions to African vaccine manufacturing over the next three days. I hope that we will come out of this with a clear roadmap, supported by the PAVM Framework of Action to achieve a fit-for-purpose African manufacturing reality.

I welcome you again all to enjoy Nairobi, our National Park, and our culture.

Asanteni Sana, Karibu na Mungu Awabariki

Nakhumicha S. Wafula

Cabinet Secretary, Health