



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

REMARKS BY DR. DEBORAH M. BARASA, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, DURING THE OPENING OF AGC TENWEK HOSPITAL CARDIOTHORACIC CENTRE (CTC) IN BOMET, KENYA ON OCTOBER 24TH, 2024

- Your Excellency, The President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief-of the Defence Forces, Dr. William Samoei Ruto,
- Your Excellency the Governor of Bomet County, Prof. Hillary Barchok,
- Principal Secretary, State Department for Medical Services, Mr. Harry Kintai,
- The Chief Operations Officer, Samaritan Purse, Mr. Edward Graham,
- President of the World Gospel Mission, Dr. Dan Schafer,
- The Bishop of AGC Kenya, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of AGC Tenwek Hospital, Rev Dr. Robert Lang'at,
- The Board and Management of AGC Tenwek Hospital,
- Distinguished Colleagues,
- Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is great to be in AGC Tenwek Hospital for this momentous occasion of unveiling this state-of-the-art Cardiothoracic Center, cognizant of the fact that cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death globally, accounting for a substantial number of deaths and disabilities.
2. **Your Excellency**, In **2021**, Cardiovascular Diseases were responsible for **20.6 million deaths**, which is approximately **30%** of all global fatalities. Sadly, over **75%** of these deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

3. In Kenya, Cardiovascular diseases are the second leading cause of mortality, accounting for **13%** of total deaths and **25%** of hospital admissions.
4. The 2023, global hypertension report estimated a **33%** prevalence rate among the adult population in Kenya, with **16%** on treatment and only **6%** achieving controlled levels.

Your Excellency,

5. This is why as a Ministry, we have developed the second Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2021/22-2025/26), which aims to reduce by a third premature NCD mortalities by 2030, which prioritizes the prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases.
6. Additionally, we have updated and launched the National CVD Management Guidelines 2024 aimed at ensuring standardized, quality care across all six tiers of the healthcare system.
7. In line with our commitment to Universal Health Coverage (UHC), we have prioritized cardiovascular conditions within the Social Health Authority's (SHA) three health insurance funds to ensure comprehensive coverage for affected individuals. To enhance access to care, we have strengthened community health systems by training Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and implementing community screening programs. These initiatives, combined with the expanded coverage under the SHA, aim to improve the prevention, detection, and management of cardiovascular diseases in Kenya.
8. On behalf of the Ministry of Health, Your Excellency, I thank you for the incredible support you have given us, more so as we go through a period of fundamental change in health governance and public health insurance. Under your visionary leadership, Universal Health Coverage is increasingly becoming a tangible reality.

Your Excellency,

9. Your Government's efforts to create a conducive environment for investment and business growth have paved way for significant advancements in healthcare access and affordability.
10. The completion of this state-of-the-art 176-bed-capacity Cardiothoracic Centre at AGC Tenwek Hospital is a stark example of this, and it comes at the right time to complement our efforts in addressing cardiovascular disease management in the region, and beyond.
11. Its completion, and opening is a powerful message to local and international investors as well as our development partners that we are open for mutually beneficial partnerships, especially in the health sector.
12. With these few remarks, I now invite His Excellency the President to address the Tenwek family and the people of Kenya.

Thank You.

DR. DEBORAH M. BARASA
CABINET SECRETARY