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CS DUALE DIRECTS PPB TO ENFORCE STRICT REGULATORY ACTION

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale has directed the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) to ensure full compliance with the law and take firm action against any individual or entity that puts the health and safety of Kenyans at risk.

During his inaugural visit to the Board on 26 November 2025, the Cabinet Secretary ordered the immediate removal of all substandard, falsified, counterfeit, and unregistered medicines from the market, emphasising that those involved in their distribution must face arrest and prosecution. He also underscored the need for strict adherence to the Pharmacy and Poisons (Parallel Imported Medicinal Substances) Rules, 2019, and called for intensified surveillance to curb illegal licensing practices.



The visit reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to strengthening its regulatory systems as the country progresses toward attaining World Health Organization (WHO) Maturity Level 3 for health products and technologies. CS Duale held discussions with the PPB leadership on addressing current challenges, improving governance, and advancing reforms under the Taifa Care Model.

He further highlighted measures to protect consumers, noting that the Social Health Authority (SHA) will not reimburse any medicine that is not certified by PPB. A national track-and-trace system is also being rolled out to monitor medicines from source to last mile.

The Cabinet Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), particularly in expanding local pharmaceutical manufacturing, improving access to essential medicines, and strengthening Universal Health Coverage.

CS Duale was received by PPB Board Chairperson Dr John Munyu and joined by Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Ms Mary Muthoni.

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PS OLUGA FLAGS OFF 2025 WORLD AIDS DAY HALF MARATHON

Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga, today flagged off the 2025 World AIDS Day Half Marathon at Nyayo National Stadium on 30 November 2025, uniting Kenyans in a strong show of solidarity and commitment to ending AIDS by 2030.

The event drew high energy and widespread participation, turning the run into a national moment of hope and renewed determination in the fight against HIV.

Kenya's momentum remains strong, and the mission clear:

One Race. One Goal. A future where every Kenyan thrives.



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STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH WINS SDG AWARD 2025

The State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards has been awarded the SDG Award 2025 in recognition of its leadership in advancing Sustainable Development Goals across malaria, TB, nutrition, and preventive health.

The award highlights the Department's effective use of strong data systems — including KHIS, DHIS2, KMIS, and KDHS and its success in strengthening the role of Community Health Promoters in driving community-level impact. It also recognises the Department's coordinated partnerships with county governments, UN agencies, development partners, civil society, academia, research institutions, and the private sector through platforms such as the Malaria Partnership, Zero Malaria Campaign Coalition, the TB Multisectoral Accountability Framework, and the Nutrition Interagency Coordination Committee.

Speaking in Mombasa during the award ceremony, Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni reaffirmed the Department's commitment to deeper collaboration, stronger data systems, and continued innovation in prevention and service delivery as Kenya advances toward a healthier and more equitable nation.



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CS DUALE ENGAGES AFDB ON MAJOR HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale on 24 November 2025 held productive discussions with a delegation from the African Development Bank (AfDB), led by Ms Hendrina Doroba, on transformative health projects aimed at strengthening specialised care across Kenya.

The meeting focused on the planned construction of a Level 6 specialised trauma hospital in Londiani to address the growing burden of road traffic injuries, as well as progress on the proposed Level 6 Centre of Excellence in Bungoma County for Sickle Cell Disease and regional blood services.

CS Duale and the AfDB team also reviewed plans for the launch and full operationalisation of the East Africa Kidney Institute (EAKI), which will expand specialised kidney care, enhance training, and reduce reliance on costly overseas referrals.

The Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed the Government's commitment to decentralising specialised services and ensuring equitable access to quality care, noting that these projects are central to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The discussions were attended by Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr Ouma Oluga, Director-General for Health Dr Patrick Amoth, and senior Ministry officials, underscoring the strong partnership between the Government and AfDB in advancing Kenya's health agenda.



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PS OLUGA ENGAGES KEMRI-WELLCOME TRUST ON STRENGTHENING HEALTH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS



Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga, on 25 November 2026 met with a delegation from the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust at Afya House for comprehensive discussions aimed at deepening partnerships that advance Kenya's health research agenda.

Dr Oluga reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to fostering collaborative, sustainable, and impactful research ecosystems that promote innovation, strengthen national research capacity, and improve health outcomes for Kenyans. The meeting reviewed ongoing joint initiatives and identified new opportunities for collaboration in priority health areas.

The visiting delegation was led by Mr Chris Bird, Chief Legal Officer, and included Dr Julia Kemp, Associate Director for Equitable Research Ecosystems; Ms Yolisa Nalule, Ecosystems Lead – Africa; and Mr Con Omoro Osendo, Governance and Policy Adviser.

PS OLUGA REAFFIRMS GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO HEALTH WORKFORCE



The Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga, has reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening Kenya's health workforce, terming it a cornerstone of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Speaking in Nairobi during the launch of the KMPDU Strategic Plan 2025–2029, on 28 November 2025 Dr Oluga highlighted President William Ruto's leadership in prioritising the welfare, development, and deployment of health workers as part of ongoing sector reforms.

He noted key milestones achieved under the current administration, including the operationalisation of the Health Human Resource Advisory Council, the appointment of a national taskforce on health worker welfare, and progress in clinical placement, internship posting, and UHC staffing initiatives.

Dr Oluga said these reforms demonstrate clear direction from the highest levels of Government and affirmed the Ministry's readiness to work closely with KMPDU in implementing the new strategy.

The launch signals an important step in strengthening Kenya's health workforce and advancing quality healthcare delivery across the country.

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STRENGTHENING HRH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The Ministry of Health has reaffirmed its commitment to working with the private sector to strengthen Human Resources for Health (HRH). Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Ms Mary Muthoni, said while presiding over the graduation of the Class of 2025 at The Nairobi Hospital Cicely McDonell College of Health Sciences on 28 November 2025.

Held under the theme “The Future of Health Care: Embracing Technology, Research and Innovation,” the ceremony highlighted the need for skilled, innovative, and adaptable health professionals.

The graduating class included nurses, midwives, mental health practitioners, and other specialised cadres who play a central role in quality care and disease prevention.

PS Muthoni commended the institution's commitment to excellence and encouraged graduates to uphold compassion, professionalism, and integrity. She noted that their readiness to embrace technology, research, and innovation positions them to contribute meaningfully to advancing Universal Health Coverage in Kenya.



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BRONCHOSCOPY TRAINING BOOSTS RESPIRATORY CARE

Kenya has strengthened its respiratory care capacity with the launch of a new Bronchoscopy Training Programme at Kenyatta National Hospital, officiated by Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga on 25 November 2025.

The three-day specialist training, delivered in partnership with the University of Nagasaki, introduces modern bronchoscopy technology to improve early detection and management of lung diseases such as TB, pneumonia, asthma, and lung cancer.

Dr Oluga noted that enhanced diagnostic capacity and hands-on training are key to advancing Universal Health Coverage and improving patient outcomes. By hosting the programme, KNH is positioning itself as a regional centre of excellence in advanced pulmonary care.

The launch was attended by KNH leadership, the Ambassador of Japan, and representatives from Nagasaki University.



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MOH, APOLLO HOSPITALS DEEPEN COLLABORATION



Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale on 24 November 2025 met with a delegation from Apollo Hospitals, led by Mr Dinesh Madhavan, to explore expanded partnerships aimed at strengthening Kenya's healthcare system.

Discussions focused on capacity building, support for clinical trials, and scaling up advanced cancer care services, including proton therapy. The Government will also tap into Apollo's technical expertise to enhance cancer centres and build skills in neurology, CyberKnife services, kidney transplant training, cardiac care, and paediatric surgery training at KUTRRH.

CS Duale briefed the delegation on ongoing health reforms, including healthcare digitisation and the rollout of the Social Health Authority (SHA), all aimed at improving access to quality, patient-centred services.

The engagement reinforces Kenya's commitment to expanding specialised medical capacity and fostering strategic international partnerships. The CS was joined by Director-General for Health Dr Patrick Amoth and Director for Curative and Nursing Services Dr Andrew Toro.



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KENYA, ALGERIA STRENGTHEN HEALTH COOPERATION

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale on 26 November 2025 met with H.E. Mr Farid Ouahid Dahmane, the Algerian Ambassador to Kenya, to discuss deeper collaboration in strengthening health systems and advancing Universal Health Coverage.

The meeting reaffirmed commitments under the 2015 directive to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation and built on Kenya's 2022–2023 engagements with Algeria, which highlighted the country's strong pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity.



Both sides explored a proposed Framework for Cooperation in Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) to support local production, enhance regional resilience, and safeguard Kenya's health supply chain.

CS Duale was joined by Principal Secretaries Dr Ouma Oluga and Ms Mary Muthoni, and Director-General for Health Dr Patrick Amoth.

BOOSTING LOCAL
PRODUCTION AND
ADVANCING UHC



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CS DUALE ENGAGES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ON NEW HEALTH FINANCING MODEL

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale on 28 November 2025 met with Development Partners Health-Kenya (DPH-K) to advance the rollout of Kenya's new health financing model and strengthen alignment between partner support and national priorities.

The Ministry presented the proposed financing framework, built on a unified approach — one plan, one budget, and one monitoring system — to enhance coordination and drive priority UHC outcomes. Partners also explored investment opportunities and technical collaboration under the sustainability-focused TaifaCare Model.



ADVANCING THE NEW FINANCING MODEL

CS Duale highlighted key reforms powering the sector's transformation, including the Social Health Authority (SHA), the digital health superhighway, expanded Community Health Promoters (CHPs), strengthened local manufacturing, and health workforce development.

He emphasised that the new model is anchored on transparency, accountability, and results-driven investment, and urged partners to align closely with the framework to accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

The CS was accompanied by Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga, and senior ministry officials.

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CS DUALE BRIEFS PARTNERS ON ONGOING HEALTH REFORMS

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale today updated Development Partners in Health-Kenya (DPHK) on key national health reforms, including the Social Health Authority's sustainable financing model, digitisation of services, the Quality Healthcare and Patient Safety Bill, and the National Equipment Services Programme (NESP).

Speaking at a session hosted by the French Embassy, CS Duale highlighted the urgent need to strengthen maternal health services and expand Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), noting that reducing maternal and newborn mortality remains a national priority.

The meeting reviewed progress, addressed persistent challenges, and reinforced collaboration to ensure affordable, high-quality, and accessible healthcare.

The session was chaired by Dr Serawit Bruck-Landais and attended by PS Public Health Ms Mary Muthoni, COG CEO Ms Mary Mwiti, WHO Representative Dr Adielle Onyenze, and other dignitaries.



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PS MUTHONI HIGHLIGHTS HIV PROGRESS AND PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, reaffirmed Kenya's progress in the fight against HIV & AIDS as the country marks World AIDS Day, calling for stronger community engagement and continued investment in prevention.

Addressing the Holy Trinity Ruai Community on 30 November 2025 she outlined key public health priorities, including preventing gender-based violence, strengthening primary healthcare and community health systems, improving hygiene and sanitation, and addressing rising drug and substance abuse among young people.



PS Muthoni also underscored ongoing reforms under the Social Health Authority (SHA), emphasising the Government's commitment to accessible, people-centred health services and building healthier, more resilient communities across Kenya.

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PRESIDENT REAFFIRMS KENYA'S COMMITMENT TO ENDING AIDS BY 2030

H.E. President William Ruto has reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. His message, delivered by Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs H.E. Musalia Mudavadi at the World AIDS Day Half Marathon, called for stronger prevention, treatment, and youth-focused support services.

The President noted ongoing challenges, particularly rising infections and vulnerability among adolescents and young people. He highlighted Kenya's progress, including 87 percent treatment coverage for people living with HIV and increased investments enabling HIV-free births. He further announced that Kenya will introduce injectable HIV treatment next year to enhance access and adherence.



Reaffirming the Government's focus on Universal Health Coverage, he cited ongoing social health insurance reforms and continued investment in health systems despite declining global donor funding. He also praised multisector partnerships led by the National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC) and urged unity in addressing the triple threat of HIV, teenage pregnancy, and sexual and gender-based violence.

The Kenya AIDS Integration Strategic Framework (2025–2030) and the World AIDS Progress Report were launched, setting the direction for Kenya's HIV response over the next five years.

The commemoration brought together senior national leaders and partners, including Principal Secretaries Dr Ouma Oluga and Carren Ageng'o, KEWOSA members led by Senator Veronica Maina, Director-General for Health Dr Patrick Amoth, NSDCC CEO Dr Douglas Bosire, NASCOP Head Dr Andrew, KNH CEO Dr Richard Lesiyampe, JOOTRH CEO Dr Joshua Okise, development partners, civil society, and the public.

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IN PICTURES | WORLD AIDS DAY HALF MARATHON



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KENYA EXPANDS CANCER CARE PACKAGE TO KSH 800,000 UNDER SHA

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale has reaffirmed the Government's commitment to improving access to cancer care, announcing the expansion of the Cancer Care Package under the Social Health Authority (SHA) from KSh 550,000 to KSh 800,000, effective 1st December 2025. The enhancement is designed to ensure that lifesaving cancer treatment is accessible to all Kenyans, regardless of socio-economic status.

Speaking at the Joyful Women 16th Thanksgiving Ceremony at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, Hon. Duale highlighted strong progress in partnerships that are reducing the cost of essential therapies. Notably, through collaboration with Roche, the price of Herceptin breast cancer treatment has been reduced from KSh 120,000 to KSh 40,000 per session, now fully covered under SHA with zero out-of-pocket costs across contracted facilities.

Held under the theme "Jiunge Nasi – Join Us," the ceremony celebrated the resilience and advancement of Kenyan women. The Cabinet Secretary underscored the role of sustainable healthcare financing under SHA, emphasising that good health is the foundation of a stable and productive economy.

He outlined ongoing reforms in women's health, including the Linda Jamii scheme, which continues to support households across the country, with more than 22,000 teenage mothers benefiting so far.

Marking 16 years of women's economic empowerment, Hon. Duale encouraged women to register under SHA, joining over 27 million Kenyans already enrolled, to access expanded maternal and newborn services.

"Maternal health remains a national priority. We are committed to ensuring that every woman—whether in urban centres or remote communities—receives safe pregnancy care, safe delivery services, and dignified, quality healthcare," he said.

The event, graced by H.E. President Dr William Samoei Ruto and H.E. Rachel Ruto, recognised more than 250,000 women empowered through the Joyful Women initiative across 44 counties.



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KENYA HOSTS 2ND ASLM DIAGNOSTICS CONVENTION

On 24 November 2025, Kenya hosted the 2nd Africa Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) Special Convention on Diagnostics in Nairobi, bringing together scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, civil society, and development partners under the theme: "Strengthening Diagnostics, AMR Surveillance and Innovative Financing for Impact."

Held shortly after World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Week, the Convention underscored the urgent need to strengthen Africa's diagnostic capacity to curb AMR, enhance early outbreak detection, and build resilient health systems.

Representing the Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Director for Public Health Dr Stephen Muleshe reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to placing diagnostics at the core of Primary Health Care, Universal Health Coverage, and national health security. He highlighted the country's progress over the past decade, including expanded laboratory networks, strengthened genomic and AMR surveillance, integration of diagnostics within PHC, and increased domestic investment in emergency preparedness.

The Convention also showcased innovations in diagnostic technologies, integrated surveillance models, and sustainable financing approaches aimed at accelerating AMR control efforts across Africa.

Dr Muleshe commended ASLM for its leadership and expressed Kenya's support for institutionalising the Convention as a permanent platform for policy alignment, innovation sharing, and strengthening the continent's diagnostic ecosystem.

"A stronger and more interconnected Africa begins with stronger diagnostics, and Kenya remains committed to leading and collaborating toward this shared vision," he said.

