



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

9th November, 2021

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE KENYA MEDICAL SUPPLIES AUTHORITY (KEMSA) REFORMS

The Council of Governors (CoG) is drawn to the ongoing conversations on reforming the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) which has taken prominence in the media headlines recently. As the CoG, we believe that urgent structural and institutional reforms are needed at KEMSA to ensure the institution effectively serves Counties in the procurement and supply of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical products to improve availability and affordability of health commodities, and ultimately enhance health outcomes. The centralised procurement and distribution system for health products and technologies ought to be restructured in a manner that fully is aligned to devolution and accords joint accountability to both National and County Governments.

Essentially, the Constitution assigned health functions to both the National Government and the County Governments. While delivery of most of the essential health services are assigned to County Governments, which have responsibility for County health facilities (level 1 to level 5) and pharmacies, ambulance services, and promotion of primary health care, the role of National Government in the delivery of health services is restricted to National referral health facilities.¹ Implied in these functions is the obvious fact that the demands of the 47 County Governments for medical supplies and equipment are higher than those of the National Government.

¹ The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution of Kenya dealing with assignment of functions.

In view of the heavy usage of KEMSA by the 47 County Governors the institution should be conceptualized, established and structured as a Joint Entity of both National and County Governments which has to be answerable and accountable to both levels of Government.

Indeed the Council of Governors has gone beyond just talk by proposing comprehensive amendments to the KEMSA Act which should be considered in the overall reform of the Institution. Meanwhile, the Council of Governors will engage the National Government so that the County Governments can engage Alternative Health Providers to ensure uninterrupted supply of quality health commodities to the Counties' Health facilities.

Finally the Council of Governors reaffirms its commitment to the success of Devolution and delivery of Universal Health Coverage to all Kenyans. The Council also calls upon the relevant institutions tasked with the responsibility of safeguarding public resources against plunder and misuse to investigate and bring to book all those who will be found culpable of mismanaging KEMSA.

Signed:



**H. E Hon. Martin Wambora, EGH
Chairman, Council of Governors**