



**SPEECH BY HON. SUSAN N. WAFULA,
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MINISTRY OF HEALTH.**

**THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 36TH "KENYA PROGRESSIVE
NURSES ASSOCIATION SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE" AT BISHOP
STEM PASTORAL CENTRE KAKAMEGA ON 15TH NOVEMBER, 2022
AT 10.00 AM**

- The President of the Kenya Progressive Nurses Association **Mr. Michael Nyongesa**
- All Nurses and Midwives present
- Development partners present
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I honor the invitation extended to me by the Nurses and midwives of Kenya gathered here.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

strengthening Nursing and Midwifery is vital in achieving global mandates such as universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. As you are aware, the Constitution of Kenya, the Vision 2030 and the health policy framework, tasks the health sector to come up with core strategies to ensure Kenyans enjoy the highest standards of healthcare services. A healthy population drives economic development, and Nurses and Midwives are very critical in the sense that they offer quality health care services, promote gender equality and strengthen economic growth; the three areas align with sustainable Development Goals (SDG) three, five and eight. All this is for the benefit of our one Nation, one people without discrimination, race and ethnicity.

As you all know, we cannot repudiate that COVID 19 pandemic is still with us. Everyone everywhere has learnt at least something new in the nature of life and healthy tips in the span of this pandemic. However, management of COVID 19 pandemic has risen the visibility of nurses like never before and underlined that nurses are indispensable to healthcare and they are the backbone of every health service. Nurses are, and have been, on the frontline of this pandemic, working to educate, research, prevent, treat and care for people with compassion, resilience, creativity and great leadership skills. Nurses have been leaders in ensuring that all patients received patient-centered and high-quality care, be it in a health facility or at home through Home Based Isolation and Care Program. While performing their roles and responsibilities, nurses have sacrificed much including their physical, mental, emotional health, and even their very lives.

The Ministry of health has worked with the Nurses and midwives very closely to the fact that a National Nurses and Midwifery Policy was developed and launched this year (May, 2022). Development of the policy came as a result of international recognition of Nurses and Midwives in the world. A global strategic direction for Nurses and Midwives 2021 – 2025 was equally developed by WHO to give guidance and a perspective of recognition of this profession globally, indeed you are a fraternity to be saluted. I want to challenge you to publish a report of the first-year implementation of this policy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to inform Kenyans that preventable, treatable and non-Communicable diseases (NCD) are easily managed at the primary health care level by Nurses and Midwives. Data shows that primary health care (PHC) can deliver 90 percent of all the essential healthcare services people need throughout their lives, and is less expensive and more accessible than hospital-based care. In this respect, I can comfortably say that Primary health care (PHC) can address 90% of the universal health coverage (UHC), and universal health coverage (UHC) is best delivered by Nurses and Midwives.

Nurses and midwives are often the first healthcare staff to interact with patients and sometimes the only health professional a patient will ever see. The Nurses provide care, support, and treatment for the sick, the injured, the dying and support their families and communities. In this regard, Nurses and Midwives need to broaden their education even further in large numbers. I therefore challenge the nursing and midwifery profession to embrace science and innovation as they constantly search for solutions for the new

and complex challenges they face in the production of their education, Leadership, Management, research as well as clinical practice. This will be evident through publications and successful evidence-based practice and innovation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My appeal to the Nurses and Midwives of Kenya is to encourage them perform their duties with devotion and professionalism by adhering to the National Patient's Rights Charter and work as a team to build unity in the profession. I acknowledge the fact that the capacity of Nurses and midwives has been built to PhD and Professors in order to offer specialized health services. In this regard they are able to tackle 21st Century health challenges. I therefore urge all Nurses and midwives in Kenya to enhance their education level in order to compete in the global market.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Nurses and Midwives through the KPNA invitation and wish them future success in their endeavor to serve the community and families of this country.

With those few remarks it is now my pleasure to declare the "Kenya Progressive Nurses Association 36th Scientific Conference" officially opened.

I THANK YOU

GOD BLESS YOU