



HIV @ 30



**2014 WORLDS AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION AT
MACHAKOS COUNTY SPEECH**

BY

PROF. ELIZABETH N NGUGI

His Excellency Dr. Alfred Mutua, Governor Machakos County,
US Ambassador to Kenya Robert Bob Godec, Director National
AIDS Control Council (NACC) Dr. Nduku Kilonzo,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen all protocols
observed

What a lovely day; what a lovely morning.

First and foremost let me take this opportunity to thank NACC and the organizing committee for arranging this event. Secondly before proceeding any further I would like to take this privilege and honor, to heartily appreciate the excellent initiative that Her Excellency the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta for seriously undertaking to protect both mother and child from HIV infection and other morbidity and mortality. Thus contributing to Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 & 6. This is not a mere undertaking, as it will remain a historic milestone in protecting mother and child from sickness and death.

Now let me interrogate this year's International World's AIDS Day theme. This is "Getting to Zero" i.e. Zero new HIV infection, Zero discrimination and Zero AIDS related Deaths. It is baffling now just as it was 30 decades ago that some people are still discriminating others. And so coupled with all the other interventions, there is need to be more focused and with concerted efforts to mobilize and provide HIV minimum package to all the Key Populations wherever they are. To amplify this further these services include; Biomedical, Social, Behavior and Structural. This last category, then means, non discriminative interventions, creating conducive environment and providing choices beyond sex-work.

Sex-work creates a network between them and the general population. That is, clients are from the general population, husbands and boyfriends. At any rate who are the members of the Key Populations, our brothers, sisters and children. Let me now hasten to pose a question; Are user friendly services for the KP possible? A resounding yes, taking University of Nairobi, Centre for HIV Prevention & Research as a case study. UoN started working with for KPs in 2011 with support from CDC (PEPFAR Funds). There are 10 sites namely Nyeri, Thika, Mwea, Embu, Chuka, Meru, Makindu, Kitui, Mwingi and

Machakos. A total of 76, 0001 hitherto have been reached with minimum standard of HIV comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support. And Zeroing in Machakos where we are. The programme in Machakos DICE started only in May 2013 and a total of 2384FSW, 38MSW, 36MSM, 2 IDUs a total of 2460 have been mobilized and provided with minimum, but comprehensive package for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Thus averting an estimated 24,600 cases of HIV infection. The Drop-In-Centre is situated at Government a physical facility, The Masaku School for the Physically Disabled in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Thus making it just as any other clinic at the hospital i.e. Diabetes, surgical ect.

My message is, each KP must be reached with focused service. Those Positive put on ARV and counseled to adhere. Those negative must continue with preventive interventions. Thus cutting the chain of transmission.

This should be an integral part of the Government structures and systems just as it is in Machakos. This is the model I am recommending in all the 47 Counties for greater ownership and sustainability.

Finally let me take this opportunity to thank Machakos County

Government (The Governor and his entire establishment) for embracing this strategy.



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KIND LISTENING.