



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION

HIV TEST RESULTS ARE ACCURATE

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION HON. BETH MUGOMPEGH,MP

ON AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE DAILY NATION NEWSPAPER ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH REGARDING HIV TESTING SERVICES

We have received enquiries from Kenyans, the media and partners in the health sector about articles which appeared in today's Daily Nation and its sister news paper, The East African. The report casts aspersions on the quality of HIV testing services provided in the country and intimating that thousands of Kenyans could have been wrongly diagnosed to be infected with HIV.

As you may be aware, over five million Kenyans have been tested for HIV in health facilities, stand- alone VCTs and through door to door campaigns.

These media reports have caused anxiety among Kenyans and may have a negative impact on the ongoing campaign aimed at encouraging Kenyans to know their HIV status.

In this regard, I wish to clarify as follows;

1. Kenya has adopted international standards and procedures approved by WHO for HIV diagnosis. According to our guidelines, we undertake serial testing methods that allow use of three different types of test kits. Currently we are using Determine, Bioline and Unigold test kits, all of which have been approved by WHO. All HIV test kits used in the country have accuracy levels of over 99.5%.
2. Any HIV positive results are immediately confirmed using a different test kit. In case of discrepancy between test one and two, a third HIV test is done. Further, a blood sample is taken to National HIV reference Lab for further testing.
3. Kenya has an elaborate Quality Assurance System for HIV testing that routinely evaluates test kits, testing procedures and competence of all personnel providing HIV testing services.
4. Any person providing HIV testing services must undergo accredited training approved by the National Aids and STI Control Programme.



In view of the above, I wish to assure members of the Public, the Media and our Partners that our HIV counselling and testing services are of high standards and provide accurate results. As a country we shall strive to continue to adopt new HIV testing technologies appropriate to our needs.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm to all Kenyans that greater knowledge of HIV status is critical to expanding access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care services. So far we have been able to test 36% of adult Kenyan population and it is our commitment that we shall be able to test over 80% of our adult population by 2010.

Thank you

HON. BETH MUGO,EGH,MP.
MINISTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION