Highlights:
AU Partners with the EAC to promote Kiswahili as a Language of Wider Communication in Africa ................................................................. 2
East Africa: Non-Payment of EAC Contributions Will Delay Growth, Development Goals ........ 3
Uganda: Ministry of Health Launches Plan to Prevent TB in People Living With HIV ................. 4
Tanzania: HIV Vaccine Trial One Step Up .................................................................................. 5
Kenya: Hope for Mankind as New HIV Drug ‘Successful in Mice’ ........................................... 6
Rwanda: Gisagara Residents Benefit From New Family Planning Campaign ............................ 8
Tanzania Reinstates Taxes On Sanitary Wear ............................................................................. 9
Rwanda: Rotarians to Build Accommodation Facilities for Cancer Patients Undergoing Radiotherapy ............................................................................... 10
Uganda: Government Increases Salaries of Doctors and Judicial Officers .............................. 11
Tanzania Health Ministry Draws Ambitious Plan of Combating Dengue Disease .................. 11
Kenya: Homa Bay Woman Rep Wants Cancer Treatment Included Under Primary Health Care 12
Rwanda: First Lady Jeannette Kagame Visits Botswana’s HIV Prevention Facility .................. 14
Rwanda: Schools Welcome Rwf1.3 Billion Funding for Maternity Leave ............................... 15
Kenya: As Crisis Persists, Kirinyaga Patients Flock to Nyeri Hospital ........................................ 16
AU Partners with the EAC to promote Kiswahili as a Language of Wider Communication in Africa

Posted in Press Release by EAC

East African Kiswahili Commission, Zanzibar, 3rd July, 2019: The African Union has partnered with the EAC to set the pace for the recognition and promotion of Kiswahili as a Language of Wider Communication in the whole of Africa.

Under The Dar-es-Salaam Framework of Action adopted by the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), AU’s specialized institution mandated to develop and promote African Languages, and the East African Kiswahili Commission (Kamisheni ya Kiswahili Afrika Mashariki - KAKAMA), an EAC institution charged with harmonization, coordination and promotion of the development and use of Kiswahili for regional integration and sustainable development, the two organizations agreed and committed to work closely and with other organizations on the continent and beyond to achieve the set goal.

Addressing a Consultative Meeting on the Promotion of Kiswahili as a Language of Wider Communication in Africa held on 26th-28th June, 2019 in Dar-es-Salaam, the Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Harrisson G. Mwakyembe, challenged participants drawn from across the continent to galvanize the spirit and energy of Pan-Africanism and the need for Africa and persons of African descent to be united.

He said Kiswahili provides a platform for the promotion of a feeling of solidarity and pride among the people of the African world by inculcating pride in African values and consciousness.

Dr. Mwakyembe said there was a legitimate need and interest in the promotion of Kiswahili as a Pan-African language of integration and development as a response to globalization and regionalization movements now in vogue across the world. He said the cases of the United Republic of Tanzania and the EAC are excellent examples of the potential of Kiswahili to achieve integration and development.

In Remarks delivered by the Executive Secretary of the East African Kiswahili Commission Prof. Kenneth Simala, the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko said the establishment and operationalization of KAKAMA demonstrates the realization and commitment of political leadership and policy organs of the EAC of the importance of Kiswahili for regional integration and sustainable development.

The SG said that Kiswahili is imperative to creating awareness and understanding of the challenges and opportunities that come with integration and development. The language
is a strategic resource for communication and active citizen participation in development. He welcomed the decision by the AU to promote Kiswahili as a Pan-African *lingua franca* and promised the EAC’s support in using Kiswahili as a catalyst to achieving AU’s Agenda 2063.

The Head of UNESCO Office and Representative to the United Republic of Tanzania, Tirso Dos Santos, hailed the AU and EAC for the importance they attach to Kiswahili as a medium and tool of communication relevant and necessary for educational, scientific and cultural development of Africa.

He noted that UNESCO is alive to the realities of African culture in general, and language in particular. He hailed the emerging collaborative partnership between ACALAN and KAKAMA as specialized language agencies and pledged UNESCO support to these initiatives for the sake of economic and social development of the continent.

On his part, Prof. Baye Mekonen, Chairperson of ACALAN-AU Assembly of Academicians reiterated the importance of Kiswahili as a Pan-African language of identity and tool of communication and development. He acknowledged that Africa is highly multi-lingual hence the need to focus on recognizing and promoting Kiswahili as a common language, without neglecting other equally important African languages of identity.

The ACALAN Executive Secretary, Dr. Lang Fafa Dampa and his EAKC counterpart, Prof. Kenneth Simala, reaffirmed the visions of both the AU and EAC to harmonize and nurture the growth and development of Kiswahili at continental and regional levels.

They collectively committed to maintain their collaborative momentum and closely work together to develop and execute a clear strategy of implementation of *The Dar-es-Salaam Framework of Action* and ensure that declarations about the development and use of Kiswahili at continental and regional levels are followed through.

**East Africa: Non-Payment of EAC Contributions Will Delay Growth, Development Goals**

2nd July, 2019

By Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

**EAST** African Community has always been admired as a model for regional economic cooperation with enviable regional integration milestones in customs union and common market.

It is the most integrated of the five regional economic communities and it is therefore not surprising that some analysts look at as something of a yardstick with which the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)’s future prospects are being measured.

**With 172 million people, a land area of 2.5 million square kilometres and a combined Gross Domestic Product of US$ 172 billion,**
according to EAC Statistics for 2017, the region has great potential for growth and development among member states.

However, the future of the community we aspire to be realized, we need to remain steadfast in our responsibilities which include timely payments of our contributions.

According to the Treaty establishing the East African Community the budget of the Community shall be funded by equal contributions by the Partner States and receipts from regional and international donations and any other sources as may be determined by the Council. However, member states contributions have been dwindling amid growing donor fatigue.

For the just ended 2018/2019 year, only 59 per cent of the budget estimates has so far been received and the problem has become serious such that the East Africa Legislative is now suggesting sanctions against partner states that delay or do not remit their contributions. In 2013/14, partner states contributed 94 per cent of the budget by the end of the fiscal year and 87.5 per cent in 2014/2015.

Partner states’ contributions however maintained a downward trend with 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 fiscal years recording 70.5, 79 and 65 per cent, respectively.

It has been noted that the EAC budget has not increased for the last four years, while the community has witnessed remarkable growth in terms of institutional territorial jurisdiction and volume of activities.

This remarkable growth has however not attracted a proportionate increase in funding to address the ever-growing needs of the community.

We have been receiving support from development partners but we should take note that the EAC is ours and we own the regional development agenda.

While we hope and pray that we remain steadfast in cutting on unnecessary expenditures and focus on more efficient spending.

We also call upon member states to stick to their responsibilities of timely payments of contributions.

Over reliance of donor support does paint us a very good picture especially when they tax their people to support us when we do not do what we are supposed to be doing.

**Uganda: Ministry of Health Launches Plan to Prevent TB in People Living With HIV**

By The Independent 3rd July, 2019

Health Minister Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng

Kampala, Uganda — A new plan aimed at preventing Tuberculosis among Persons Living with HIV has been launched in Kampala. The plan will see Persons Living
with HIV introduced to Isoniazid Preventive Treatment-IPT, to purposely stop the development of TB or treat any undiagnosed TB in their bodies.

The Ministry of Health says that the plan aims to push Uganda towards meeting the United National Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS that calls for the reduction of all TB deaths among PLHIV by 75 per cent by 2020. Currently, Uganda has been able to cut these deaths only by 37 per cent.

TB is the number one cause of death for persons living with HIV in the country. In 2017, it is estimated that 14,000 Ugandans died due to TB, 3,000 of these had HIV. According to Health Minister Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng; IPT reduces the risk of a first TB episode and recurrent TB episodes by more than 90 per cent among PLHIV.

Uganda first adopted WHO’s guidelines for IPT as part of the comprehensive HIV/AIDS care plan in 2014. However, the uptake of IPT has remained low with less than 60,000 PLHIV taking the treatment.

But the Minister says that the treatment will not be given to persons whose viral load cannot be detected. She says they are going to focus on all new HIV infections that are started on treatment and all other groups of people living with HIV.

Dr. Yonas Woldermariam, the WHO representative says Uganda’s effort in fighting TB over the years was inadequate. He adds that a lot more is needed to scale up the prevention of TB in persons living with HIV.

Dr. Diana Atwine, the Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary says that a lot of work needs to be put into training health workers on how to help patients adhere to the treatment, for the new plan to succeed.

The program is being implemented with funding from the Center for Disease Control, USAID, PEPFAR, Global Fund and Defeat TB.

**Tanzania: HIV Vaccine Trial One Step Up**

4th July, 2019

By Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

THE Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), has embarked on the third stage of HIV vaccine trials involving participants who are at high risk of contracting the disease.

The participants who are involved in the study include sex workers.

According to a researcher, Mr. Zakaria Mtulo from MUHAS, the previous stages I and II involved members of the armed forces but the third stage has involved a large number of participants who were at risk of getting HIV.

He was speaking at the ongoing Saba Saba exhibitions at Mwalimu Nyerere grounds along Kilwa Road in Dar es Salaam. Mr Mtulo said the third stage commenced in October.
last year and it has so far recruited 700 participants.

"We are proceeding with the screening stage and from there we will get the required sample size for the third trial which is the efficacy stage." "When you have a large sample size, the possibility of having the true values or results is high and this is the essence of the third trial," he said.

He noted that the participants underwent through similar procedures which were done to the members of armed forces, whereby they were screened for HIV, Hepatitis B and C and other health complications before they were enrolled.

He said after they were enrolled, they were given the vaccine that was on trial and will be followed up for three years.

Mr. Mtulo said that since they started conducting the trials of the HIV vaccine in 2007, the preliminary findings have shown that the vaccine has the capability of stimulating the body to develop immunity against the virus.

"Since we started conducting the trials more than a decade ago we have seen a very good response to our candidates towards the stimulant and this has made us to move a step ahead going to the third trial," he said.

He further explained that MUHAS was participating in the vaccine trial because there were multiple circulating strains of HIV, and therefore the virus circulating in Tanzania may not be.

**Kenya: Hope for Mankind as New HIV Drug 'Successful in Mice'**

4th July, 2019

By The Nation (Nairobi)

A Kenyan scientist is among a team of researchers who have discovered a new drug that can potentially cure HIV.

In what is being termed a major collaborative effort, the researchers have for the first time inched closer to finding a cure for HIV after successfully eliminating the virus in living mice.

**CURABLE DISEASE**

Dr. Benson Edagwa, an assistant professor of pharmacology at the University of Nebraska Medical Centre (UNMC) and researchers at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, used a combination of a modified ARV treatment to keep the virus at low activity levels, along with a powerful gene-editing technique that snipped out HIV genes from infected cells.

With an estimated 19.6 million people in East and Southern Africa -- 1.5 million Kenyans -- living with HIV and about 380,000 recorded deaths, the journey to getting a cure seems to be nearing the homestretch. If HIV is not treated, it can turn into Aids, a disease in which the virus badly damages the immune system.
In a study involving 29 mice, in some of the animals the team used a combination of gene-editing technology (CRISPR) and a therapeutic treatment called LASER ART to erase HIV DNA from the genomes of animals in what they call an unprecedented study that was published on Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications.

In various tests, the scientists found no trace of the virus in 30 per cent of the animals.

"This observation is the first step toward showing for the first time, to my knowledge, that HIV is a curable disease," said one of the study's lead authors, Kamel Khalili, director of the Neurovirology and the Comprehensive NeuroAIDS Centre at Temple University's Lewis Katz School of Medicine.

LASER ART is a medication found to be effective when released slowly over a long period of time. With LASER ART, traditional anti-HIV drugs are tweaked so they develop a crystal structure, and are then encased in fat-soluble particles.

**DORMANT VIRUSES**

As a result, the drugs are able to slip through the membranes of cells in places where HIV tends to hide, like the liver, lymph tissue, and spleen where the cells' enzymes start to release the drug.

**Kill dormant viruses**

This not only targets viral sanctuaries but also maintains HIV replication at low levels for extended periods of time, reducing the frequency of ART administration.

The crystal structure releases the drugs more slowly, allowing them to continue killing dormant viruses as they start to emerge and replicate for months rather than days or weeks, like the conventional forms of the medicines.

It is half a century since the first known HIV-related death and two patients appear to have been cured of the virus. Whereas modern ARV treatment can already suppress HIV to the point that it has no impact on life expectancy, and even make it untransmittable, the "London patient", announced earlier this year to have been cured of HIV offers something more: The hope of freedom from a virus that 37 million people worldwide are living with.

Last month, Kenya launched a clinical human trial of a vaccine that has the potential to stop HIV infecting cells. Scientists involved in the trial said on Friday during final preparatory meetings that recruitment for the trial would begin in the next three weeks.

**ON THE CUSP**

The new vaccine being tested will apply a 'block approach' in stopping HIV from attaching itself onto cells. HIV is a virus spread through certain body fluids. The virus attacks the body's immune system, specifically the CD4 cells.

The clinical trial, code-named 'IAVI W001 trial. 664gp140. W001', will test the vaccine candidate dubbed BG505 SOSIP -- a molecule cloned to look exactly as the HIV one -- on Kenyan volunteers to check for safety.

"We are going to the root cause. We are going after the virus that's already integrated in the genome of the host cell," said co-author of the report, Dr. Howard Gendelman, chairman of UNMC's pharmacology and experimental neuroscience department and director of the Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases.

"We are at the cusp of a scientific revolution in human genomes that can change the course, quality and longevity of life," he said.
Rwanda: Gisagara Residents Benefit From New Family Planning Campaign
2nd July, 2019
By The New Times (Kigali)

Leadership from the Southern Province, Ministry of Health, Gisagara District and Imbuto Foundation, inaugurated three health posts during the Baho Neza Campaign in Gisagara District, Mugombwa and Muganza Sectors.

Residents of Gisagara district last week received free family planning, nutrition as well as health sensitisation services courtesy of the Baho Neza integrated campaign.

Launched in April by the Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Rwanda, the three-year integrated health campaign is geared towards ensuring healthy and happy families through promoting maternal and child health, as well as tackle teenage pregnancy.

It is implemented by various partners including Imbuto Foundation, One UN Rwanda, USAID, and Partners in Health, SNV, the World Bank and Society for Family Health (SFH) among others.

As a key partner in implementing the campaign, Imbuto Foundation hosts edutainment sessions and special talks with Key groups on Positive Parenting, Parents-Adolescents Communication, and Family Planning.

The campaign that was launched in April has currently been held in more than five districts across the country, reaching over 11,000 people.

The event held in Gisagara gathered thousands of residents who also witnessed the inauguration of four health posts in Mugombwa and Muganza sector by the Ministry of Health.

Among other activities, musical performances that carried campaign-related messages were featured as part of sensitization about healthy and happy families.

Speaking at the event, Emmanuel Gasana, the Governor of Southern Province urged the citizens to take advantage of the services given to them by the campaign,

"This support given to us by Imbuto Foundation and other partners, we have to use it and bring honour to ourselves as we build families that are healthy and happy."

Diane Gashumba the Minister of Health urged the citizens to use the health facilities for health checkups, as well as going for treatment early before their situations get worse.

Rwanda has made tremendous improvement regarding maternal and child health, and is among the few countries that met Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, by reducing the
maternal mortality from 1071 in 2000 to 210 per 100,000 Live births in 2015.

Despite the progress made, the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) 2014-2015 showed that Rwanda still bears a heavy burden of high neonatal mortality (20 per 1000 live births), high infant mortality (32 per 1000 live births), high under five mortality (50 per 1000 live births), high maternal mortality (210 per 100,000 live births) and high malnutrition rate (stunting 38%).

Furthermore, the country is also facing an increase of teenage pregnancy, which is now estimated at 7.3%. Additionally, 7% of adolescent women aged 15-19 years old are already mothers or pregnant with their first child according to the DHS 2015.

These are some of the reasons Baho Neza that the government introduced Baho Neza.

Tanzania Reinstates Taxes On Sanitary Wear
29th June, 2019

By The East African (Nairobi)

Tanzania has reintroduced value added tax on sanitary products after research showed that scrapping of the tax last year has not helped to lower consumer prices in the domestic market, according to Deputy Finance Minister Ashatu Kijaji.

"Instead of the anticipated outcome, domestic factories reduced production due to the tax factor, resulting in job losses," Dr. Kijaji told parliament while explaining the controversial reinstatement of the VAT in the 2019/2020 budget.

The government has sought to appease local manufacturers of sanitary pads by lowering corporate tax from 30 per cent to 25 per cent for new investors in the industry for two years.

"We will also extend a similar benefit to existing producers from July 1 this year through to 2021," she added.

Reducing dependence

The move is aimed at reducing dependence on imported products and increasing domestic production, which should lead a drop in prices, said Dr. Kijaji.

She said the research was conducted by the Ministries of Finance and Industry, and the Fair Competition Commission.

Vocal opposition politician Zitto Kabwe criticised the government's move, saying indicative prices should have been introduced to foil unscrupulous traders.

"Menstruation is a biological issue and bringing back VAT is an injustice to women, especially low income earners," Mr. Kabwe said.
Rwanda: Rotarians to Build Accommodation Facilities for Cancer Patients Undergoing Radiotherapy
2nd July, 2019
By The New Times (Kigali)

Over the weekend, Rotary Club of Kigali-Virungu, a member club of Rotary International and one of the oldest Rotary clubs in Rwanda, held a fundraiser to build a transit accommodation facility for cancer patients that are undergoing radiotherapy treatment at the Rwanda Military Hospital (RMH).

Rotary International is an international organisation that brings together business and other professional leaders to provide humanitarian services across the world.

RMH introduced radiotherapy treatment last year, and since then, over 70 patients have been treated.

95 percent of these came from outside Kigali, and since they were not so sick to be admitted, they had to report to the hospital from their respective homes from Monday to Friday, according to Dr. Pacifique Mugenzi an oncologist from RMH.

According to Mugenzi, there was need for a transit centre in Kigali where the patients would rest and be able to commute to hospital during the treatment.

According to Saudah Nalule, the outgoing president of the club, the transit centre needs about Rwf15 million to be established and all the money was raised during the fundraising dinner held in Kigali.

"We hope the centre will be ready in about three months," she said.

The facility will be able to accommodate about 30 to 50 patients at any given time.

"This is just the beginning of the many efforts towards our cancer project. The fight against cancer is huge and we are taking it in bits. This is the start but there is yet more to come," she said.

Dr. Mugenzi said that the shortest radiotherapy treatment is about a week and the longest is about eight weeks, and a break in the process would compromise the outcomes of the procedure, a fact that calls for a smoother process of reporting to the hospital is necessary that the patients would not miss their treatment.

"It is often that you find yourself discussing with a patient not about the modalities of the treatment; but the details surrounding it, the main one being accommodation," he said.
Radiotherapy or radiation therapy, often abbreviated as RT, RTx, or XRT, is therapy using ionizing radiation, generally as part of cancer treatment to control or kill malignant cells.

To date, there are three known treatment options for cancer: chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy. All the three options are available in Rwanda.

Statistics show that in 2018, 10,704 new cases of cancer and 7,662 cancer related deaths were registered in Rwanda.

The survival rate of patients diagnosed with cancers is appallingly low in the developing world, including Rwanda.

In 2018, 18.1 million new cases of cancer were reported worldwide, and this number is expected to reach 24.6 million by 2030.

**Uganda: Government Increases Salaries of Doctors and Judicial Officers**

4th July, 2019

By The Monitor (Kampala)

Government has released a new salary structure, providing for an increment for medical and judicial officers for the financial year that begun on Monday.

The July 1st circular signed by Ministry of Public Service, Permanent Secretary Catherine Bitarakwate, shows that the country’s wage bill for the new financial year stands at Shs4.69 trillion, up from Shs4.2 trillion in 2018/2019.

The wage bill therefore accounts for 25.5 per cent of the local revenue projections for the financial year 2019/20, estimated at Shs18.3 trillion.

According to Bitarakwate’s circular, the new wage allocation is based on among other factors, salary enhancement for employees in the health and judicial sectors, as well as the planned recruitment of staff for upgrading health centre IIs to health centre IIIs, and operationalizing seed schools.

“Government remains committed to a phased approach to pay enhancement in accordance with the pay policy principles and targets approved by cabinet in 2017,” Bitarakwate explained.

Eight categories of employees will benefit from the salary increments. These include, District health officers and their assistants, Specialist medical officers, dental surgeons and pharmacists in salary scale U2, consultants, senior consultants and directors of hospitals.

**Tanzania Health Ministry Draws Ambitious Plan of Combating Dengue Disease**

4th July, 2019

By The Citizen (Dar es Salaam)
In Summary

- The Government of Tanzania has drawn up an ambitious plan of destroying mosquito breeding grounds in different parts of the country.

Dar es Salaam — The Government of Tanzania through, the Ministry of Health, has drawn up an ambitious national plan of destroying mosquito breeding grounds in residential areas.

Health Minister Ummy Mwalimu made the statement today, saying the move would help counter the spread of malaria disease and the outbreak of the Dengue fever.

Speaking during the spraying exercise of insecticides in Mchikichini Ward, Ms. Ummy said the Dengue fever had forced the executives from her ministry to reconsider how to counter mosquitoes causing the disease.

"We sat down for deliberations and came up with the idea that the National Malaria Control programme should work in a different style apart from that of distributing treated mosquito nets and insecticides or using tests as we need now to combat mosquito breeding grounds to end the problem," said the minister.

On the impact of the Dengue fever, the minister pointed out that great efforts had been made to contain the disease in Dar es Salaam Region and that number of patients suffering from the disease had substantially gone down.

"The good news is that the number of patients has gone down as last May there were 2759 patients and the following month of June the number went down to 790. So, let me appreciate the efforts that are being made and I urge members of the public to be part and parcel of war on vector-borne diseases," said the minister.

Kenya: Homa Bay Woman Rep Wants Cancer Treatment Included Under Primary Health Care

2nd July, 2019

By Capital FM (Nairobi)

Her sentiments come a day after Safaricom Chief Executive Officer Bob Collymore who
was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in 2017 succumbed to the disease/COURTESY

Nairobi — Homa Bay Women representative Gladys Wanga wants the Cancer Prevention and Control Bill to be amended to have cancer as a component under primary health care.

Wanga who was diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2014 says the disease has become a major killer in the country because it is diagnosed late when it has advanced.

Her sentiments come a day after Safaricom Chief Executive Officer Bob Collymores who was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in 2017 succumbed to the disease.

"Chair this bill is so personal to me because I am speaking from experience. I was diagnosed with cancer and before diagnosis I could not tell what I was suffering from because sometimes the disease is there, and you do not feel pain. The main issues is that many people have been misdiagnosed because even the doctors themselves cannot tell from the onset that someone has cancer," she said on Tuesday.

"When I sought treatment outside country, the simple things that a nurse was able to do there, can also be done here but we need to make it a primary healthcare to avoid late diagnosis which in turn becomes difficult to treat leading to deaths which would have been prevented."

In a raft of proposals that she presented before the National Assembly Health Committee, Wanga further advocated for the training of more oncologists to deal with cancer.

"I would want each county to have at least one oncologist. The government should embark on funding training for oncologists so that we get more of them who can actually tell at an early age that indeed someone has cancer instead of being misdiagnosed with some vitamin deficiency and others being told they early and so on," she said.

Committee members led by their Chairperson Sabina Chege (Murang'a Women Representative) welcomed her proposals which they said were timely.

"I want to thank you for this bill, and I am sure if cancer is made part of primary healthcare it is going to be given attention at that level. If some of these cancer problems were diagnosed early some of the deaths that we have experienced would not have happened," said Chege.

Her sentiments were supported by other MPs who pointed out that the disease is costing the country much and something has to be done.

"Cancer has become so dangerous and one of the major killer diseases in this country and the worst part is that it is only being diagnosed when it has already spread to different stages. I remember there is a former PS who was told he had allergy and months later he was found with cancer. My point is that this bill needs all the support that it deserves," said Seme MP James Nyikal.

In the same breath, Mathare MP Timothy Oluoch is also sponsoring an Access to Health Bill through which he wants the government to provide government sponsored national hospital insurance to the vulnerable people in the society.

Appearing before the Health Committee, Oluoch argued that it is shameful for patients to be detained in health facilities due to unpaid bills.
Rwanda: First Lady Jeannette Kagame Visits Botswana’s HIV Prevention Facility
29th June, 2019

By The New Times (Kigali)

First Ladies Jeannette Kagame and Neo Masisi during their visit to the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP)

First Lady of Botswana, Mrs. Neo Masisi during the visit to visit to the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP)

Rwanda’s First Lady Mrs. Jeannette Kagame and her Botswana counterpart Neo Masisi on Friday toured the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) Headquarters, one of the main HIV prevention centres in the southern African country.

Mrs. Kagame and President Paul Kagame were until yesterday undertaking a two-day state visit to Botswana, aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

The visit to the facility is one of the various activities that the First Lady undertook while on the visit.

First Ladies Jeannette Kagame and Neo Masisi, during their visit to ACHAP viewed an art display by a young entrepreneur benefiting from the ACHAP youth empowerment program (HS)

Headquartered in the capital Gaborone, ACHAP is a hybrid organisation with local NGO ACHAP Botswana focusing on HIV prevention care in treatment, among other activities across the public health space.

The facility offers technical support, training, capacity building and grant management services through grants, consultancies and training activities in the African Region.

CEO of the African Comprehensive HIV-AIDs Partnerships, Dr Khumo Seipone, presenting an overview of the program.

Imbuto Foundation’s Director General, Ms. Sandrine Umutoni, among the delegation that visited the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) - (HS)
The organisation’s main focus is on youth and adolescents, with majority of their funding coming from the Global Fund grants.

Using a comprehensive approach, ACHAP has successfully supported HIV and TB prevention, care and treatment with remarkable results.

First Lady of Botswana, Mrs. Neo Masisi during the visit to visit to the African Comprehensive HIVAIDs Patnerships (ACHAP) - (HS)

ACHAP is said to have dramatically reduced mother-to-child transmission and new infections among children by at least 80 percent.

Among other things, the organisation supported the development of Botswana’s first National Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS (2003-2009) and the second National Strategic Framework (2010-2016).

**Rwanda: Schools Welcome Rwf1.3 Billion Funding for Maternity Leave**

3rd July, 2019

By The New Times (Kigali)

Students of Institut Sainte Famille de Nyamasheke in classroom with their female teacher.

Public schools will, starting this financial year, be given extra funding for paying teachers who stand in for female educationists who are on maternity leave.

The Rwf1.3 billion, under the 2019/20 national budget, will be used to pay 4,320 substitute teachers in primary schools and 2,880 in secondary schools, according to the ministry of education.

During the 2019/2020 fiscal year budget consultations in May this year, parliamentarians raised concerns that schools were struggling to pay teachers who stand in for those on maternity leave.

Felix Ruhimbya, Head Teacher of Groupe Scolaire Rebero in Gicumbi District, said schools were diverting funds meant for other activities to pay substitute teachers.

"Sometimes the school had to pay the substitute teachers' remuneration in instalments because it did not have enough resources. This demotivated the teachers," he
said. "The allocated funds can motivate substitute teachers and help improve the quality of education to students."

The school has over 1,000 students in primary, and 270 in secondary.

It employees 19 teachers in primary section, of whom 16 are female, while three of its 14 secondary teachers are women.

On average, he said, about four female teachers at the school go on maternity leave every year.

Marie Alexia Nyirankenero, Head Teacher of Kaduha Primary School in Muhanga District, said that the school has been grappling with limited resources.

She disclosed that the school has nine female teachers and two male teachers, adding that three women went on maternity leave in the last financial year.

"When more than one teacher go on maternity leave, it becomes difficult for the school to be able to cover expenses for those sitting in," she said, adding that some teachers were reluctant to stand in for their colleagues because the pay was little.

Speaking on Thursday as Parliament passed the budget for the new fiscal year, which started on July 1, Prof. Omar Munyaneza, a legislator and chairperson of parliamentary Standing Committee on National Budget and Patrimony said that; "it is gratifying that the Government considered priority issues, including the substitute teacher pay gap."

Meanwhile, The New Times understands that, in some cases, some schools were not willing to employ female teachers because they were avoiding to incur ‘extra cost’ of paying their substitutes during the maternity leave.

Since the maternity leave benefits scheme came into force in November 2016, female teachers are entitled to a full salary for a three-month maternity leave from one month and a half previously.

However, the arrangement does not cover temporary replacements for the working mothers.

Kenya: As Crisis Persists, Kirinyaga Patients Flock to Nyeri Hospital
3rd July, 2019

By The Nation (Nairobi)

Patients, some of whom travelled from Kirinyaga County, wait to see doctors at Karatina Level Four Hospital in Nyeri County on July 3, 2019.

In Summary

- A spot check by the Nation found that the number of patients in the outpatient wing and wards had more
than doubled compared to three weeks ago.
- Some of the patients in a queue at the outpatient wing said they had waited two days to see a doctor.
- Hospital director Carol Gichuki also spoke of a crisis, saying their facilities were "stretched".
- Dr. Gichuki cited the wards, saying more than 300 patients had been admitted, despite a capacity for 216, so they had to share beds.

Karatina Level Four Hospital in Nyeri County is grappling with an influx of patients from the neighbouring Kirinyaga where medical services have been paralysed for the last one month.

A spot check by the Nation found that the number of patients in the outpatient wing and wards had more than doubled compared to three weeks ago.

Some of the patients in a queue at the outpatient wing said they had waited two days to see a doctor.

**HOPE LOST**

A sick Purity Njeri said she arrived at about 6am after travelling from Kagumo village in Kirinyaga, yet had not been attended to by 11am.

She said she had lost hope.

"Our county health facilities are in crisis so I had to seek medical care here," she said.

"I arrived early enough hoping to get medical attention as soon as possible but as you see I have not even managed to get registered. The queue is quite long; I don't think I will be treated today," she said.

The story was the same for Ms. Rose Wanjiku, who travelled from Kirinyaga with her one year-old baby.

While complaining of intolerable congestion, others asked Kirinyaga, whose governor is Anne Waiguru, and medics there to find a solution before matters worsen.

**"STRETCHED"**

Hospital director Carol Gichuki also spoke of a crisis, saying their facilities were "stretched".

Dr. Gichuki cited the wards, saying more than 300 patients had been admitted, despite a capacity for 216, so they had to share beds.

"It is true that the numbers in this hospital have gone up owing to the issues in Kirinyaga. Of course the human resources aspect is not a bit challenging so we are seeking assistance from other facilities," she said.

"We hope Kirinyaga will resolve its issues soon."

The director noted, however, that medics at the institutions were doing their best.

She said the workload had forced them to seek reinforcement from other facilities in Nyeri.