



## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

### **PRESS RELEASE ON SAFETY OF TETANUS TOXOID VACCINE**

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The Ministry of Health wishes to strongly refute allegations appearing in sections of the press on safety of tetanus toxoid vaccine to women of reproductive age. This is not only unfortunate, but also a baseless pronouncement not backed by any scientific evidence, ill intended to cause fear and despondency among Kenyans in the uptake of much needed essential health services.

In this regard, the Ministry wishes to clarify as follows:

1. This is an old matter raised by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) three years ago and has since been resolved through a joint Tetanus vaccine testing committee which comprised of the Ministry of Health, Academia and the Catholic Church representatives (KCCB).
2. The joint committee was tasked to sample tetanus toxoid vaccine vials from the contentious batches and qualitatively analyse their safety.
3. The joint committee found the sampled vaccine vials to be safe and free from any contaminants and recommended the vaccine for use.
4. Subsequent consultative meetings between the Ministry and KCCB gave a clean bill of health to the tetanus toxoid vaccine with successful vaccination campaigns taking place in 2016 and 2017.

In view of the foregoing, the Ministry of Health wishes to reassure the public that the tetanus toxoid vaccine procured by the Government from World Health Organization prequalified firms through UNICEF are safe, secure and of high quality. Lastly, we wish to advise women who are eligible for this vaccine to access it in both public and private health facilities across the country.

It is therefore very unfortunate for someone to issue such a careless and misleading statement which is intended to cause harm to the public by dissuading them from accessing a necessary medical intervention.

A detailed press statement outlining the chronology of events will be issued on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2017**