



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE
ON CORONAVIRUS

UPDATE ON COVID-19 IN THE COUNTRY AND
RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT MARCH 4, 2021

DAY: 353

BRIEF NO: 345

Your Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta,
Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces,
Representatives of Development Partners here
Present,
Colleagues,
Members of the Fourth estate,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

First and foremost, I would like to thank you most sincerely for honoring our invitation to grace this important occasion and for braving traffic to get here.

Your presence is important to me and my Ministry because it's good to share what is a proud moment for Kenya.

While some may take it for granted that the inoculation against COVID is a state task and responsibility, it is also key to note and appreciate that Kenya is among the first countries on the continent to receive and commence a COVID-19 vaccination program, and we are now in the league of those who have properly and strategically prepared and planned its roll-out. I can assure you that nothing has been left to chance and today, as we celebrate the deployment of these lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines to the 47 counties through regional vaccine depots, we are effectively altering the health risks that faced us just a few days ago.

As I said the other day at the JKIA when we received this consignment, these vaccines are just the right ammunition

we need to fight the coronavirus; they are tantamount to the bazookas, guns and tanks required for war and with them we are indeed now fully fledged to fight COVID-19 like an insurgency.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The vaccines are one of the many investments we have undertaken in transforming primary healthcare, which is a key driver of Universal Health Coverage (UHC); when coupled with the countless other investments and reforms, we can be sure to reap worthwhile dividends.

Over the last decade, the Government has Scaled up coverage of immunization services from 50%, to more than 90% of Health facilities, through Procurement and installation of specialized vaccine storage equipment, in over 5,000 health facilities, setting up of 290 subcounty vaccine depots, and construction of a National and Eight Regional ultramodern vaccine depots, among others.

Your Excellency, ladies and Gentlemen,

This store was built in 2013 through generous support from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in order to expand storage and handling capacity for vaccines at the Ministry of Health...and we are very grateful for this partnership. It has the capacity to store more than 6 months of vaccine stock for the country at any one time, and it boasts of more than enough vaccine cold and freezer rooms. Specifically, it can store 130,000 liters under (2-8° Celcius) temperatures, and a negative capacity storage of 14,400 liters in -20° Celcius.

The facility also boasts dry storage space of more than 1000 m3. This infrastructure is going to be key in deployment of the COVID-19 Vaccines, and for those of you who are wondering what will happen if this area suffers a power outage, I am happy to report that the facility has a standby generator that is able to run all the equipment. Leaving nothing to chance, it also has in

place a remote temperature monitoring and alert system, that is critical in maintaining the quality of vaccines.

Every year, this facility handles vaccines worth more than KES 6 Billion. These include childhood vaccines such as Tuberculosis Vaccine, Polio Vaccine, Pentavalent vaccine, Rotavirus Vaccine, Pneumococcal Vaccine and Measles Rubella Vaccine. Vaccines against cervical cancer are also stored at the facility.

From the ports of entry and the Depot, vaccines are distributed quarterly to more than 8,000 Health facilities in the counties, through 9 regional depots. At the Central Vaccines Store, all vaccines are stored under the recommended temperatures. The cold rooms and freezer rooms are equipped with both external digital temperature displays and Remote Temperature Monitoring Devices that are web based, SMS enabled and our relevant staff can visualize the conditions in real time, from any location in the country. The system sends SMS and visual web alerts to officers whenever temperatures go out of range.