



**KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY HON (PROF) P.A. NYONG'O,
MINISTER FOR MEDICAL SERVICES DURING THE
OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT FACILITY AT BETA HEALTHCARE
INTERNATIONAL LTD**

Distinguished guests,

The Chief Executive Officer, Shelys Africa group Dr.
Sanjay,

The staff of Beta Healthcare International,

All the invited guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Hamjambo !

I am glad to be here today on this noble occasion for the commissioning of the Research and Development Facility in Beta Healthcare and thank the management for the invitation.

On behalf of the Ministry of Medical Services, and the Government of Kenya, I wish to express and demonstrate our firm commitment towards provision of affordable and accessible healthcare to the general population in Kenya. By my coming here today, I wish to show that as a Ministry we are ready to support initiatives such as this

one and to associate with the institutions whose overall objectives and goals are directed towards alleviating emerging challenges in the provision of healthcare.

We believe that research and innovation, and new approaches to drug formulation and development in our country and in sub-Saharan region will place us in a better position to make significant and meaningful strides towards self reliance and coming up with our own home grown interventions towards some of the debilitating diseases in our country.

Sub-Saharan Africa has been lagging behind in matters of innovation, but truly and indeed no region can grow without coming up with innovative approaches towards economic development. I am happy today to note that Beta Healthcare International, as part of Aspen Group of Companies has taken this bold step and has embraced a collaborative approach towards research and development, and I do hope that your approach will be fruitful towards sharing intellectual knowledge and innovations towards managing neglected diseases, as well as life threatening diseases.

In Kenya today, Cancer management is out of reach to the common person. HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections is still a mystery albeit the current interventions available. The cost of healthcare provisions is still a major hindrance to accessibility. Significant amount of government expenditure is used towards healthcare. We believe that in order to reduce the expenditure associated with healthcare provisions, we as Kenyans, must come up with our own homegrown

solutions tailor-made to our unique situation. It is in this regard that I wish to encourage all healthcare providers to take the bold steps and embrace research and development. And to this effect, I congratulate the CEO, Directors and staff of Beta Healthcare for taking initiative that we are opening today.

It is our expectation that this Research and Development facility that we are inaugurating today will commit its activities towards solving some of the problems I have mentioned.

We know that Research and Development is an expensive affair but we urge you to feel encouraged because the long term benefits will not only be commercial but will also go a long way in enhancing your image and achieving your Corporate Social Responsibility objectives. I am happy to learn that you have a team of experts that cuts across our borders, that is from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa and Europe. We believe that the collaborative approach is the way forward and we wish you well.

With these few remarks, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to declare the Research and Development facility at Beta Healthcare officially opened.

Thank you.