



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER CELEBRATES THE WORLD AIDS DAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 2009

[Theme; 'Universal Access and Human Rights']

The Office of the Prime Minister, in collaboration with the NACC is participating for the first time in the World AIDS Day to be held on 1st of December, 2009. This year's celebrations will take place at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC).

The theme for World AIDS Day 2009 is '**Universal Access and Human Rights**', which is in harmony with the OPM mandate on supervision and coordination of Government services in all Ministries and public affairs. Global leaders have pledged to work towards [universal access](#) to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, recognizing these as fundamental human rights. In the Office of the Prime Minister, we believe that, "YES IT CAN BE DONE"

This event is marked as part of mainstreaming HIV/AIDS which addresses both the direct and indirect aspects of HIV and AIDS within the context of the workplace policy. World AIDS Day also plays a crucial part in showcasing the activities of the Aids Control Unit, networking, and as a learning experience for the members of staff.

The office has been actively involved in mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in the workplace. Following the request from the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030, Mr. Meshack Ndolo HIV/AIDS & Development Programme Advisor has been providing Technical Assistance (TA) to the OPM on HIV and AIDS activities in general and setting up the AIDS Control Unit (ACU) in particular. The Aids Control Unit (ACU) is now operational and has accomplished some key milestones in line with the Performance Contract (PC) of the OPM;

MILESTONES:

- Conducting behavior change communication (BCC) and HIV and AIDS capacity building for prevention, testing and care to all staff.
- Setting up systems and functional aspects to enable the OPM in participating in the National HIV and AIDS activities with the National AIDS Control Council, Line Ministries and other partners.

- Securing the training on HIV and AIDS program management for two officers from the OPM in Israel and providing sponsorship.
- Development and production of reports and documentary on HIV and AIDS activities involving the OPM.

In order to strengthen the OPM Aids Control Unit, the Office of the Prime Minister sponsored two officers Ms. Rose Ochieng, and Peter Koros last month to attend an intensive one month course in Community Based Prevention, Treatment and Management of HIV&AIDS from 8th to 26th October, 2009 at Galillee International College, in Israel.

The course covered different areas like Project Management, Intervention in HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS in special populations, Resource Development, Management of Team Decision making among others. Study tours were incorporated, whereby the participants visited different health facilities around Israel and were able to get hands on experience in the area of prevention, management and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

At the end, all participants came up with a proposal on areas that may need donor funding in their respective countries. The team from Kenya came up with a proposal on male circumcision, using a safer and hygienic tool, the Tara Klamp.

In order for the OPM to continue responding effectively to the epidemic, it requires exceptional responses that demonstrate timeliness, scale, inclusiveness, partnerships, innovation and responsiveness, and this is the focus as we celebrate this year's event.

As Prime Minister, Gordon Brown stated in his video for this year's celebrations, "It is important for all Governments to increase testing for HIV/AIDS and tackling the stigma that persists".