

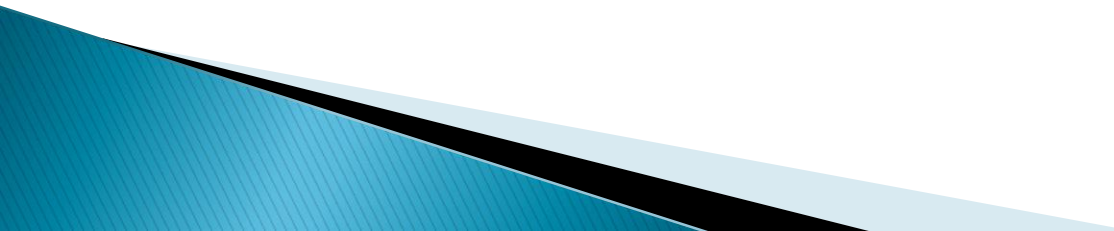
Kenyan Parliament – Report

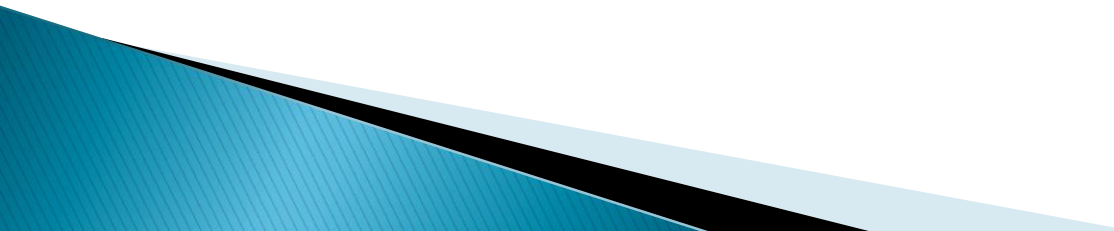
By: Hon. Dr. Victor Munyaka

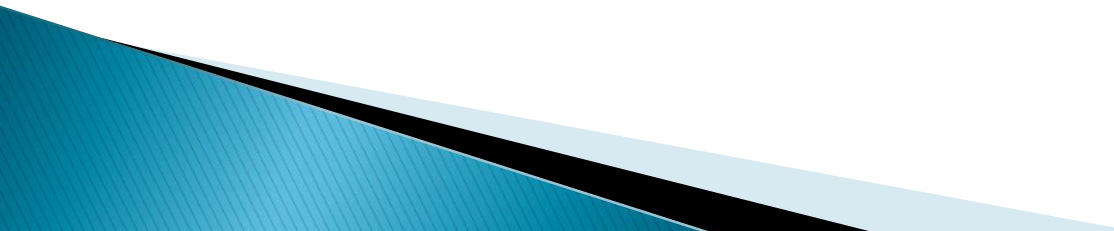



- ▶ Kenya's Population now is at 40m and Kenyans recently passed and enacted a new constitution which gives rights to all citizens on the highest attainable health care services including Reproductive Health services. The new constitution only allows for abortion in the opinion of medical offices where the life of the mother is endangered. In fact the new constitution has ensured that 1 / 3 of gender respected.

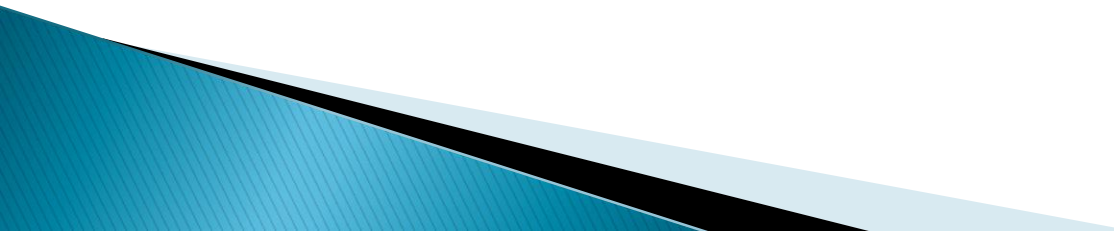
- ▶ The biggest challenge faced is the still too low budget provision for health which is about 6% of the national budget way below the 15% Abuja declaration. The new standing orders in parliament has now empowered the parliamentary committees to be involved in the budget making process a step which may now improve the situations.

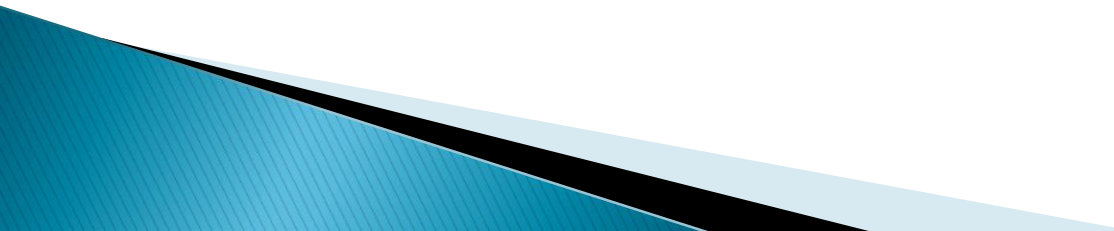
- ▶ Development partners and some civil society organizations have also contributed to provide particular health care support or funding.
 - ▶ In the past 2 years the government, through a programmed known as economic stimulus funded development of model health facilities in all 210 constituencies as well as employed extra nurses in all the constituencies.
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- ▶ The other big success story is the constituency development fund which has really assisted in alleviating poverty since 2003 and which is directly put under the patronage of the local MPs.
 - ▶ There also exists a medical supplies Agency (KEMSA) which supplies medical inputs to all health facilities country wide.
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- ▶ But we also suffer from massive brain drain of the medical professionals who go out to seek for greener pastures due to the poor remuneration within government.
 - ▶ The other challenge is the lack of Health care insurance for all citizens. Only around 30% of Kenyans have a health cover and the rest will do out of pocket funding.
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- ▶ Our maternal mortality rate is still high at around 480 per 100,000 live births but we are optimistic this will lower because of the devolved health care facilities and improvement of our road network.
 - ▶ Our infant mortality rate is still high at 75 per 1000 live births.
 - ▶ The prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS is at 7% and the success story is the provision of free ARVs majority funded by the Global Fund.
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- ▶ These challenges and a few others have made the achievement of MDGs on health a major challenge.
 - ▶ The Parliamentary Network on Population currently under patronage of Hon. Ekwe Ethuro has been active and has actually overseen a development of population policy with involvement of all Members of Parliament. The network has now increased the membership from 20 to 50 sufficiently generating political goodwill.
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- ▶ We would suggest that we need more publicity for the objectives of SEAPACOH and wish that the Executive and Secretariat would engage all MPs in the respective member countries through workshops and seminars.
 - ▶ In fact we suggest that this conference could be rotational amongst member states.
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▶ **Thank you.**