**KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**News Release**

**Date:** 8th December, 2019: Time: 0900hrs EAT.

**KEMRI to reach over 30,000 residents in specialized free medical camps in 10 counties**

As part of KEMRI’s 40th anniversary celebrations, the institute has organize specialized free medical camps in 10 counties that is expected to reach out to over 30,000 local residents across the country.

In Kisii and Nyamira Counties, KEMRI has partnered with Inka Medics Association (IMA) and other partners to run a specialized free medical camps on 9th and 10th December, 2019 that will officially be launched by the Interior Cabinet Secretary Dr. Fred Matiang’i at Gusii Stadium and Nyamira Primary School respectively.

It is estimated that the two camps will reach out to over 6,000 local residents that will cover mainly chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, kidney ailments, hypertension, among others, whose diagnostic and care services require huge resources and specialized facilities. KEMRI will offer these services in a specialized state of the art mobile clinic that will be used as a screening facility in addition to the clinical services from over 30 specialized medical professionals from KEMRI.

Flagging off the team at KEMRI Headquarters, Nairobi on Friday, the Director General, Prof. Yeri Kombe said as part of the KEMRI’s 40 years celebrations, this campaign will run for the next three months and will reach out to over 10 counties across the country. “The Institute has grown tremendously over the last forty years and as a way of celebrating the 40 years of excellence in human health research in Africa we have organized these specialized free medical camps to create value to the communities that we work with as well as supporting the government’s Big Four Agenda that seeks to provide universal healthcare for all” Prof. Kombe said. Apart from Kisii and Nyamira Prof. Kombe said they will also organize free medical camps to other counties such as, Busia, Kisumu, Mandera, Lodwar, Lamu, Baringo, Marsabit, Embu, Kiambu and Nairobi.

“This campaign will strengthen our partnerships with the county governments as well as increase our value and relevance to the Kenyan public and communities we work for”. The Chairman of the KEMRI Board of Management, Dr. Naphtali Agata said. Other activities lined up as part of the KEMRI’s 40 years celebrations include the KEMRI Annual Scientific and Health (KASH) Conference that is slated for February 11th -13th 2020 among others, public outreach programmes among others.

Among the partners that are supporting the free medical services drive include County Governments of Kisii and Nyamira, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kenyatta National Hospital, Coptic Hospital, Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA), and Pharmacy and Poisons Board. Others are Beta Healthcare, Angelica Medical Supplies, Kisii and Nyamira Teaching and Referral Hospitals, Kisii Eye Hospital, HEMA Hospital, AMS Group, Dynapath Laboratories, among others.

**About Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)**

Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) is a state corporation mandated to carry out human health research in Kenya. The Institute has grown tremendously over the last forty years from an organization with only a handful of scientists in 1979, to a world re-known institute with activities spread throughout Kenya and with staff strength of close to 2,000. Hence to celebrate the great milestones that we have achieved over the years through its various research programmes, KEMRI has lined up various activities including the medical camps and scientific conferences. The Institute has been in the forefront in finding better ways for the control and treatment of diseases of public health importance in Kenya and in Africa. Research findings emanating from KEMRI's work are now being applied in the management and control of diseases and other health problems in Kenya and the world over. Notably, the Institute has developed relevant infrastructure and strategies for disease prevention, control, treatment and management and generated massive research findings that are being applied towards improvement of health in Kenya and the world. The Institute has also developed a modern health research infrastructure, made remarkable achievements in the development of a critical mass of health research scientists as well as pioneered important developments in health research technologies that have all enhanced profoundly the national and regional health capacity. No wonder KEMRI was ranked the top research institution in Africa (2019) by Scimago and Elsevier an authoritative global information analytics giants (see *www.kemri.org*).

**Contact:** Davis MKOJI Cell: 0722 309 719/ 0770 445 887