

**NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING
WITH HIV/AIDS IN KENYA (NEPHAK)**

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22nd September 2014.

Hon. Isaac Kiprono Ruto, EGH,
Chairman,
Council of Governors
Delta House, 2nd Floor,
Opposite PWC Chiromo Road, Off Waiyaki Way
P.O. Box 40401-00100
Nairobi, Kenya.

Dear Hon. Ruto,

**Re: Urgent need to Procure first line Tuberculosis Medicines to mitigate the Looming
Stock-Outs in Fy 2014/15.**

On behalf of people living with HIV, TB affected communities and those vulnerable to TB in Kenya, we write to bring to the attention of the Council of Governors leadership the above subject which you may already be aware of.

Kenya provides free treatment to all patients diagnosed with tuberculosis in line with the countries efforts to increase access of TB care to the vulnerable and in line with the stop TB strategy. This has worked well due to the unwavering commitment from the government as well as partners in ensuring consistent and efficient supply of quality TB medicines.

During the financial year 2013/14, the annual allocation of funds for the procurement of first line TB medicines was devolved to the county governments, a move which affected the procurement process at the national level. Subsequently, the national TB program reverted to the use of buffer commodities to avoid a crisis. Later, the Ministry of health with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) entered an arrangement that saw Kenya borrow first line TB drugs from Malawi. Clearly, this is not a sustainable way to manage and control TB in a country.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to request the leadership of the Council of Governors to urgently initiate dialogue with the national government and partners so as to address the commodity gap requirements. While we recognize that health care provision is devolved function in accordance with the Kenya 2010 constitution, we believe that open dialogue between the county officials and the national officials will lead to an arrangement that is beneficial to both governments and supportive to TB patients and communities.

NEPHAK - say yes to life

In the Tuberculosis inter-agency task team (TB-ICC) that our representatives are part of, the TB commodity committee has shared a drug situation for the remaining part this year and we felt that there urgent measures need to be put in place to avert a looming shortage or lack of anti-TB drugs in the country this year and beyond.

From the foregoing, we are clear that any delay in initiating dialogue to support the procurement of first line TB drugs will result in acute stock-out of key first line TB medicines before end 2014 and therefore reverse the cumulative gains made in TB control to date.

As representatives of communities and those affected and vulnerable to TB, we also have some ideas that can be shared on how to sustain the response to TB if need arises. At your convenience and at the discretion of your team, we are glad to have a consultative meeting on the same.

Further and more importantly, we are glad to refer your team to the National Leprosy, TB and Lung Health Unit for finer details on the matter.

We hope you find this deserving your attention and action.

Yours faithfully,



Nelson Juma Otwoma
Executive Director, NEPHAK.

CC. Dr. Jackson Kioko, Head - National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Diseases Unit.
Hon. Dr. Rachel Nyamai, M.P. – Chairperson, National Assembly.