

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**REMARKS BY DR ALICE OTWALA, CBS
SECRETARY/CEO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
DURING THE LAUNCH OF KENYA ASSOCIATION
OF RETIRED OFFICERS MEDICAL SCHEME AT
PAN AFRIC HOTEL NAIROBI ON TUESDAY 13TH
FEBRUARY 2018, AT 10 AM.**

THE CHAIRMAN OF KENYA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED OFFICERS
(KARO) MR IBRAHIM HUSSEIN,

CEO NATIONAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE FUND, MR GEOFFREY
MWANGI,

OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF KARO PRESENT,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME AS YOUR GUEST OF HONOR DURING THIS VERY IMPORTANT EVENT OF THE LAUNCHING OF A MEDICAL SCHEME FOR RETIRED OFFICERS. I AM EXCITED ABOUT THIS IDEA, AND I BELIEVE MANY KENYANS WILL BE HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THERE IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT CAN AFFORD THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS MEDICAL COVER IN THEIR RETIREMENT YEARS.

I CONGRATULATE KENYA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED OFFICERS (KARO) AND THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE FUND (NHIF) FOR THIS VERY TIMELY INITIATIVE THAT WILL GO A LONG WAY TO ASSURE ITS MEMBERS OF BETTER MEDICAL CARE.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE GREATEST CHALLENGE THAT FACES PEOPLE WHO HAVE RETIRED FROM FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT, IS THE HIGH COST OF TREATMENT. INDEED AS WE GROW OLDER, WE BECOME VULNERABLE TO ALL MANNER OF AILMENTS BECAUSE THAT IS THE NATURE OF THE AGING PROCESS. WE BECOME CANDIDATES FOR CHRONIC CONDITIONS THAT ARE CHARACTERISTICALLY VERY EXPENSIVE TO TREAT, EASILY WIPING AWAY LIFE TIME SAVINGS, AND LEAVING FAMILIES DESPERATE AND DESPONDENT.

IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE ATTRITION RATE OF RETIREES, SOON AFTER EXITING EMPLOYMENT, IS ALARMLINGLY HIGH OWING TO THEIR INABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR MEDICAL CARE. HEARTRENDING STORIES ARE TOLD OF HOW, FOR LACK OF

MONEY TO PAY FOR THE COST OF TREATMENT, MANY RETIREES HAVE SUCCEDED TO CONDITIONS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN TREATED OR MANAGED.

LUCKILY WITH INSURANCE, RETIREMENT NEED NOT BE A DEATH SENTENCE. THIS IS WHY THIS INITIATIVE BY KARO AND NHIF SHOULD BE WELCOME NEWS TO THOUSANDS OF RETIREES AND THEIR FAMILIES ALL OVER KENYA. THOUGH OVERDUE, IT IS NONETHELESS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME. IT DEMONSTRATES YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE OVERALL OBSERVANCE OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS IN THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA 2010, THAT ANTICIPATES A DIGNIFIED LIFE FOR ALL INCLUDING SENIOR CITIZENS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT NHIF ALREADY PROVIDES MEDICAL COVER TO ALL CIVIL SERVANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE DISCIPLINE FORCES. THIS SHOULD GIVE KARO THE CONFIDENCE THAT INDEED YOU CHOSE A PARTNER WITH SOLID CREDENTIALS THAT CAN BE TRUSTED TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE TO YOUR MEMBERS.

HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE A FAIRLY LOW UPTAKE OF MEDICAL COVER AMONG RETIREES OWING TO POOR LEVELS OF AWARENESS ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF HAVING SUCH A FACILITY. THE RELATIVELY HIGH INSURANCE PREMIUMS ALSO ACCOUNT FOR THE DISMAL NUMBERS THAT ARE ON MEDICAL INSURANCE. THESE

TWO FACTORS COMBINED POINT TO AN OPPORTUNITY THAT INSURANCE PROVIDERS SHOULD EXPLORE URGENTLY IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF MANY WHENEVER MEDICAL CHALLENGES STRIKE.

I URGE KARO TO CONDUCT AN AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN TO ENLIST AS MANY RETIREES AS POSSIBLE INTO THIS MEDICAL SCHEME. THE SENSITIZATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN SHOULD REACH THE FURTHEST AREAS OF THIS COUNTRY WHERE THERE ARE MANY RETIREES WHO WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO ACCESS THIS LIFE SAVING OPPORTUNITY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TAKES KEEN INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL ITS EMPLOYEES DEPLOYED ACROSS VARIOUS GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES AND HAS DEVELOPED NEW REGULATIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE.

THE REGULATIONS HAVE SEVERAL SECTIONS WHOSE OVERARCHING GOAL IS TO MAKE THE PUBLIC SERVICE MORE EFFICIENT IN DELIVERING SERVICES TO THE CITIZEN AS WELL AS ENHANCING THE GENERAL WELLBEING OF THE EMPLOYEES. THIS IS BECAUSE WE APPRECIATE THAT THE HUMAN RESOURCE IS THE

SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ASSET FOR ANY ORGANIZATION OR SOCIETY AND FAILURE TO INVEST IN THEIR WELLBEING OBLITERATES ANY HOPE OR POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING THE DESIRED GOALS.

I ENCOURAGE RETIRING CIVIL SERVANTS TO JOIN THIS ORGANIZATION SO AS TO CONTINUE ACCESSING QUALITY MEDICAL INSURANCE COVER. I ALSO URGE THE KENYA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED OFFICERS TO STRENGTHEN ITS SYSTEMS SO AS TO SERVE MEMBERS EFFECTIVELY.

AS I CONCLUDE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT YOU HAVE SET ASIDE THE REST OF THE DAY TO SENSITIZE MEMBERS ABOUT THE MEDICAL SCHEME. I WISH YOU A FRUITFUL

ENGAGEMENT AND TRUST THAT THE KNOWLEDGE YOU WILL GAIN WILL HELP YOU TO APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS COVER AND THE NEED TO SUSTAIN IT.

WITH THESE REMARKS, IT IS NOW MY PLEASURE TO DECLARE THE MEDICAL SCHEME FOR KENYA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED OFFICERS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.