



**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. MUGO KIBATI, DURING THE FIELD VISIT
BY REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AT KBI HQ, ON FRIDAY 17TH MAY
2024, AT 9.00 AM**

Distinguished guests

Members of staff

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to Kenya BioVax Institute,

Today, we gather for this momentous occasion as part of the launch of the Health Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Resilience Project (HEPRR) for Eastern and Southern Africa (AFE) under Phase I of the Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA). As the Chairman of the board of Kenya BioVax Institute, I am deeply privileged to stand with each of you in this crucial undertaking.

Kenya BioVax's vision is to support the global public health agenda of achieving a world free from vaccine-preventable diseases. Sustainable vaccine manufacturing plays a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness and resilience of health emergency preparedness and response efforts. By leveraging the advantages of sustainable production processes, HEPRR can strengthen local capacity, improve response times, and ultimately save lives in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The challenges we face in health emergency preparedness and response are complex and multifaceted. They require a concerted and coordinated effort that transcends organizational boundaries and national borders. We can only effectively address the threats posed by infectious diseases, natural disasters, and other health emergencies through unified action.

With the HEPRR project, we all have an unprecedented opportunity to lay the foundation for a more resilient and responsive health system in Eastern and Southern Africa. Through targeted investments in infrastructure, training, and capacity building, we will empower communities and institutions to detect, prevent, and respond to health emergencies quickly and efficiently.

Our success will not be measured solely by the resources we invest or the initiatives we execute, but by the strength of our partnerships. As key partners in this venture, we must commit to fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared accountability. We must leverage each other's expertise, networks, and resources to amplify the impact of our collective efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I am inspired by the wealth of diverse perspectives and experiences gathered in this hall. Each of you brings unique insights, skills, and resources, and it is through our collaboration that we will unlock the full potential of HEPRR. Together, we have the power to make a tangible and lasting difference in the lives of millions across Eastern and Southern Africa.

As we embark on this journey together, let us remain guided by equity, inclusivity, and sustainability principles. Let us prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable populations and ensure our interventions are tailored to their unique circumstances. Let us embrace innovation and creativity, recognizing that our challenges demand bold, forward-thinking solutions.

In closing, I wish to offer my heartfelt appreciation to the World Bank for its crucial funding of the Health Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Resilience Project (HEPRR). With their support, we're better equipped to tackle health crises and

protect communities in Eastern and Southern Africa. I also express my sincere gratitude to the ECSA-HC and IGAD as the secretariat and partner organizations for their unwavering commitment to the HEPRR project. Together, we have the power to shape a future where health emergencies no longer threaten our communities' well-being. Let us seize this opportunity with determination and resolve, knowing that the work we do today will pave the way for a healthier, more resilient tomorrow.

Thank you.

MR. MUGO KIBATI, EBS

CHAIRMAN.