



Association of Public Health Officers Kenya



# My Second Home

Presentation to CIEH ISIG

by

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&

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# My First Home Mt. Kenya Region



# Jomo-Kenyatta Airport

## My place of work



# Tea Picking



Tea farming-A major activity in Kenya



**Republic of Kenya**  
**Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation**



**Division of Port Health Services**

# Organogram

Director of public Health and Sanitation

Head, Department of Preventive & Promotive Health Services

Head, Division of Port Health Services

Disease Surveillance (IDS) Unit  
• Screening of yellow fever  
• Data collection  
• Data analysis  
• Dissemination

Vector and rodent control Unit  
• Vector and rodents surveillance  
• Disinfections and disinsections  
• IEC

Administration  
• Logistics management  
• Accounts  
• Transport

Food quality control  
Food inspections  
Food sampling  
Inspection of food premises  
Water sampling

# Background

- Division of Environmental Health – one of oldest divisions in Ministry of Health.
- First Sanitary Inspector employed 1907
- First Chief Public Health Officer Mr. R D Pearson appointed 1947
- First African trained Health inspector qualified in 1950
- Alfred Lang'at founder trustee of APHO(K) Chief PHO until Jan 2007
- Current Chief PHO in place
- Staff has now reached 5,200

# Core Functions

- Sanitation and Hygiene.
- Food and water hygiene, quality control & safety
- Disease surveillance
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Enforcement of Public Health Laws
- Insect ,vector and rodent control
- Administration
- Miscellaneous

# Latest Achievements

- National Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Policy
- Safe Injection Safety Policy
- Tobacco control legislation
- School Health Policy

# CHANGES DUE TO 2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS

- The 2007 General election brought challenges in our profession as the Ministry of Health was split into the Ministry of Medical Services and the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation.
- Decision making regarding Environmental Health issues are made by Medical Doctors rather than EHOs.
- The GoK through its annual general allocations has had more finances allocated to curative Ministry more than preventive.

# **Impacts of the new constitution**

There are good prospects because with creation of counties, the Environmental Health Officers shall head those counties.

# Main challenges facing EH profession in Kenya

- Competition from other professionals in the Ministry such as Doctors who are decision makers.
- In this coalition government the Ministry of Health was split into two.
- The current Director of Public Health is a Medical Doctor, he has no professional background of Public Health.
- What is needed to meet these challenges. The GOK of Kenya needs to recognise the trained graduates from our universities
- Our local authority colleagues work under the Town clerk. At times their duties have been transferred to those of clerical officers .

# Rivalries in the profession

- Doctors and nurses have been given more preferences than Public Health officers.
- Most of the Medical Doctors are heading preventive programmes such as:
  - NASCOP,
  - Malaria,
  - TB/Leprosy
  - and many others.

# **Political pressure**

Political goodwill lacks in the profession,  
We experience some political and  
interferences when enforcing public health  
laws.

# **What can CIEH & the North East Region do to help APHOK meet the challenges?**

- **Capacity Building**

Officers to be sponsored for trainings in the Universities in the courses of Public Health. Kenya has opened such universities as Kenyatta University, Mt Kenya University and Moi university that are offering BSc.Environmental Health.

# **What can CIEH & the North East Region do to help APHO(K) meet the challenges?**

- Ensure that the link between CIEH and APHO(k) is enhanced .


# Reflections of Gateshead



[www.aphok.org](http://www.aphok.org)



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Asante sana