

**POLITICS GENERAL**



Pharmacists Ruth Muryao and Michael Otieno at Mater Hospital in Nairobi on September 10, 2015 / REUTERS

# Sh38bn to fight HIV, TB and malaria with Global Fund four-year grant

'We will continue to support prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions for these three diseases. I encourage all Kenyans to utilise the services to improve their health for quality of life'

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## (+) DISEASES AMONG TOP KILLERS IN THE COUNTRY

HIV-Aids, TB and malaria are among top killers in Kenya according to the *Economic Survey 2017*. And while malaria has been dislodged from its number one spot as the most dangerous disease by pneumonia, it remains among the top four killers in Kenya today. Malaria was the leading killer in the country between 2012 and 2016. Prevention and control efforts by the government has seen a decline in malaria deaths by 23 per cent during the period. Collectively, malaria, pneumonia, cancer and tuberculosis accounted for 33 per cent of all deaths recorded in Kenya annually, the survey says. While cancer and pneumonia deaths continue to rise, those caused by malaria, tuberculosis and HIV-Aids related diseases have been on the decline in recent years, the report says. Malaria recorded a drop of 4,691 cases between 2015 and 2016. Malaria recorded a decline in the number of cases between 2015 and 2016, recording 1,178 less cases in 2016 compared to the previous year. It however still remains one of the top killer diseases with a total of 21,295 deaths recorded in 2016.

Kenya has received a Sh38 billion grant from the Global Fund to help fight HIV, tuberculosis and malaria for four years.

The country got the largest allocation of any African country whose applications were accepted early this month.

A ceremony was held on Friday.

The government will control the use of Sh27.2 billion. The Kenya Red Cross Society will get Sh7.3 billion and Sh4.3 billion will go to Amref.

Sh32 billion will be used to control HIV and tuberculosis, while the remainder will be used for malaria prevention and treatment.

Linden Morisson, who heads the

High Impact Africa Department at the Global Fund, said the money will be released in two annual tranches. The first is expected in January.

Approval for the cash comes four months after the Global Fund Technical Review Panel approved Kenya's application.

The panel, which recommends to the Global Fund which proposals should be funded, is headed by TB researcher Jeremiah Chakaya.

Treasury CS Henry Rotich said support from the Global Fund had enabled the government to provide free HIV, TB and malaria services in all public hospitals.

"With this new grant, we will continue to support prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions for these three diseases. I encourage all Kenyans to utilise these services to improve their quality of life," Rotich said during

the signing ceremony on Friday.

Kenya also committed to allocate Sh76.7 billion to fight the diseases over the next two years. Head of the National Malaria Control Program Erjesa Waqo, who spoke on behalf of Health CS Cleopa Mailu, said the grant will let counties work with the national government for proper use of the funds.

"These three diseases are major contributors to our illness burden and deaths. So we have to ensure we do not roll back the gains that we have made over the past six years," Waqo said.

With the help of the previous grants, Kenya has managed to put more than one million people on anti-retroviral treatment, distribute 15 million mosquito nets and support about 900,000 people diagnosed with TB.

Kenya has received 19 grants worth Sh100 billion from the Global Fund since 2012.

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## MONEY LAUNDERING?

### County, NGOs clash over Sh1bn audit query

**BRIAN OTIENO/** The Mombasa county government on Friday clashed with civil society organisations over an alleged misspending of Sh1 billion. The International Centre for Policy and Conflict and Mombasa civil society organisations told reporters and residents that public funds had been lost through money laundering. "We are dealing with a loss of more than Sh1 billion in Mombasa county alone," ICPC executive director Ndung'u Wainaina said. He spoke during a press conference at the Kwacha Africa Youth Empowerment offices. He cited the Auditor General's 2016-2017 report. County director of communication Richard Chacha dismissed the claims. He said queries in the audit report will be answered when Governor Hassan Joho appears before the Senate's Public Accounts Committee.



NASA supporters address the press in Kisumu on Friday / FAITH MATETE

## PEOPLE'S 'PRESIDENT'

### Don't relent on swearing-in, Raila told

**FAITH MATETE/** Kisumu NASA supporters have told Raila Odinga not to relent on his plans for swearing-in as the People's President. They said they are behind Raila and promised to patiently wait for him to announce a new date for the oath-taking ceremony. Led by Kondele ODM chairman George Anayo, the group Raila should remain determined to ensure he is sworn in, no matter how long it takes. Anayo said they were optimistic NASA would announce a new date for the swearing-in. The ceremony had been scheduled for last Tuesday, before it was called off on Sunday. "We know the journey to Canaan has been full of ups and downs. But we are not giving up. We urge Baba to soldier on," Anayo said. Manyatta bunge la wananchi speaker Harrison Ombore asked supporters not to lose hope.