



**CDF ADDRESS DURING THE LAUNCH OF COVID-19 VACCINATION
EXERCISE FOR KDF PERSONNEL AT KAHAWA BARRACKS ON
11TH MARCH 2021**

SALUTATION

THE VICE CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCES

SERVICE COMMANDERS

COMMANDANT NDC

DMS



GENERAL OFFICERS

GARRISON COMMANDER

SENIOR OFFICERS

OFFICERS

DFSM

ASM

GSMs

RSMs

WARRANT OFFICERS AND



FELLOW SOLDIERS

GOOD MORNING;

■ IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE JOINING YOU TODAY FOR THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION AS KDF **LAUNCHES THE COVID-19 VACCINATION EXERCISE.**

■ AS WE ARE ALL AWARE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WAS DECLARED A **GLOBAL DISASTER** IN THE YEAR 2020. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE



REPUBLIC OF KENYA PUTTING IN PLACE STRATEGIES TO CURB THE SPREAD.

■ SINCE **MARCH 2020** WHEN THE FIRST CASE WAS REPORTED IN OUR COUNTRY, KDF ADOPTED ALL MEASURES AS OUTLINED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WENT A STEP FURTHER TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISCIPLINE IS STRICTLY ADHERED TO.



- KDF EMBARKED ON NUMEROUS MEASURES AMONG THEM:
 - PROVISION OF HAND WASHING FACILITIES AT STRATEGIC POINTS
 - PROVISION OF SANITIZERS
 - PROVISION OF MASKS
 - ADHERENCE TO SOCIAL DISTANCE
 - TAKING CARE OF THE AFFECTED SERVICE PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES



- I MUST THANK ALL COMMANDERS, MEDICAL STAFF AND ALL OFFICERS AND SERVICE MEMBERS FOR ADHERING TO THE LAID DOWN PROTOCOLS IN COMBATING THE COVID-19 THREAT.
- THIS HAS DEMONSTRATED WE CAN DEFEAT ANY THREAT BY MAINTAINING HIGHEST LEVELS OF DISCIPLINE.
- WE CAN ALL RECALL THAT IT IS NOW ONE YEAR SINCE THE 1ST CASE OF COVID-19 INFECTION WAS REPORTED IN THE COUNTRY,



KDF HAS BEEN FULLY ENGAGED IN BOTH CLOSE AND DEEP OPERATIONS BY STRICTLY ADHERING TO:

- SOCIAL DISCIPLINE
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH PROTOCOL AND
- TREATMENT OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INFECTED

■ WE HAVE IN ESSENCE MAINTAINED MISSION READINESS AS WE COMBAT THE THREAT.



- KDF THROUGH THE **DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL SERVICES** HAS PUT IN PLACE MEASURES TO ISOLATE AND TREAT SYMPTOMATIC CASES AT KABETE AND OTHER DESIGNATED CENTRES IN ALL REGIONS AND THAT HAS BROUGHT OUR MORTALITY FAR MUCH LOWER THAN THE COUNTRY'S AVERAGE.
- ENGAGING IN MILITARY OPERATIONS INCLUDING TAKING CARE OF THE SICK PUTS THE KDF SOLDIERS AT AN INCREASINGLY



HIGHER RISK OF CONTRACTING COVID-19 ESPECIALLY THE HEALTH CARE WORKERS COMPARED TO THE GENERAL POPULATION.

■ IT IS GRATIFYING THEREFORE, TO NOTE THAT WE NOW HAVE VACCINE. THIS VACCINE WOULD NOT HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME, AS WE EMBARK ON MORE MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS INCLUDING TRAINING FOR RECRUITS AT RTS – ELDORET AND CADETS AT THE KMA – LANET INCLUDING OTHER MAJOR TRAINING EVENTS.



■ BUT EVEN AS WE GET TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE, IT SHOULD NOT BE LOST ON ALL OF US THAT THE ULTIMATE TOOL AT OUR DISPOSAL REMAINS **PREVENTION**, AS EPITOMIZED IN HAND WASHING/SANITIZING OF THE HANDS, USE OF MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING. THESE MUST CONTINUE TO BE OUR DAILY ROUTINE; AND I CALL ON ALL COMMANDERS TO CONTINUE TO ENFORCE THESE PROTOCOLS TO THE LETTER AND EACH AND EVERY ONE INCLUDING OUR FAMILIES TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN ADHERING TO THE PROTOCOLS.



■ THE COVID-19 VACCINE COVAX, FROM ASTRAZENECA HAS UNDERGONE RESEARCH, TRIALS AND RESPECTIVE APPROVALS AND IT IS THEREFORE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE FOR HUMAN USE.

■ I THEREFORE, ENCOURAGE ALL OF US TO GET THE JAB BEGINNING WITH THE HEALTH CARE WORKERS FOLLOWED BY THE REST OF THE KDF PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES AS PER THE PRIORITY LISTING THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE DMS.



■ I TAKE THE LIBERTY TOGETHER WITH SERVICE COMMANDERS TO LEAD IN THIS VACCINATION EXERCISE TO ASSURE THE KDF FAMILY THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

■ FINALLY, I THANK THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR MAKING THE VACCINE AVAILABLE AND FOR PROVIDING PRIORITY TO KDF AND FOR TRAINING OF MEDICS IN THE SAFE HANDLING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE VACCINE. **ASANTE SANA**