## KENYA MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS PHARMACISTS AND DENTISTS'UNION

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Secretary General
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All correspondences should be addressed to the Secretary General.

#### For Immediate Release

Date: December 20, 2024

Subject: Averting Nationwide Doctors' Strike

Good afternoon.

As we are all aware, on the 3rd of December 2024, we issued a strike notice that was to expire on the 23rd of December 2024.

In the notice, we had three demands:

- 1. Payment of interns' salaries at the CBA rates.
- 2. Payment of doctors' basic salary arrears accrued from 2017.
- 3. Full implementation of the May 8th RTWF.

I am pleased to inform the nation that after intense engagements with the government under the leadership of H.E. the Deputy President, Prof. Kindiki Kithure, last evening, we signed a deal.

In the agreement, we saw evidence of the interns' payslips being prepared at the salary rate of Ksh. 206,000- as per the CBA and their arrears to be paid since August 2024, when they started working. All interns who have been out of duty from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to report to work on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>/12/2024.

Additionally, the basic salary arrears are being paid, with Kwale County already having received their first instalment last evening. The rest of the counties will be paid today and tomorrow. The second instalment will be done in the 2025/2026 fiscal calendar, together with the adjustment of our salaries to bring an end to further accrual of arrears. Consequently, the strike notice dated 3<sup>rd</sup> /12/2024 remains suspended.

The Ministry also showed us proof of payment of school fees for registrars who are undergoing specialist training. They have also promoted 400 doctors at Afya House. Our comprehensive medical cover is now back, with the fund being managed under SHA.

There are pending issues like the payment of salaries for self-sponsored registrars, some counties like Vihiga lacking comprehensive medical covers, and delayed promotions, which will have to be resolved even as we avert another catastrophic strike during this festive season.

#### **Championing for Doctors' Rights**

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I want to thank all the people who supported us in this cause, starting with the President, Deputy President, Rtd former Prime Minister, Head of Public Service, the Chairman of the Council of Governors and all the Governors, the CS and PS for Health, and all the technical staff.

I am also grateful to our Union officials and honourable members of the union who believed in the cause even when sometimes things looked bleak. We say *ahsante* to the global labour movement who have walked with us through this journey.

I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to our members who lost their lives in this struggle. This win is dedicated to them.

As we move into the festivities, I want to ask our members to now continue working with dedication and selflessness even as we continue to engage the government in addressing some of the pending issues.

I want to urge all Kenyans to register for SHA so that together we can solve the practical challenges of SHA from within including the issues of human resources for health. We ask the government to engage all stakeholders in addressing them. As a Union, we are available when called upon to offer our expertise in addressing some of the problems in it.

Merry Christmas to all Kenyans, and may Christ be born in our hearts.

Thank you.

Yours in solidarity,
Dr. Davji Bhimji Atellah
Secretary-General

Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists' Uni

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