



Kenya Medical Association

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

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REF: KMA / NGC / TOBACCO COMMITTEE /WNTD

31st MAY 2021

RE: WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 31st May - 'COMMIT TO QUIT'

Today, 31st May 2021, the world is celebrating The World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) 2021.

The theme this year is 'Quit Tobacco to be a winner 'commit to quit'

In 1987 the member states of WHO created World No Tobacco Day [WNTD] to draw its attention towards the tobacco epidemic, which kills estimated 8 million people per year, WNTD is observed on 31st May **to make tobacco users aware of the opportunity to lead a healthier life**. This is done by creating awareness about dangers of and health problems associated with using Tobacco. Withdrawal symptoms following cessation of tobacco use can be addressed when one quits.

According to the WHO, smokers were likely to develop severe disease with Covid 19 compared to non-smokers. This finding has triggered millions of smokers to want to quit Tobacco. This birthed the theme for this year's WNTD 'COMMIT TO QUIT'.

WITHDRAW THE HEALTH LAWS AMENDMENT BILL IN LINE WITH WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) is a professional association bringing together registered doctors in Kenya, with the twin mission of championing for the welfare of doctors and advocating for quality health care for all.

The issue of tobacco has featured in KMA meetings since 1989 spearheaded by the Tobacco Committee. Agitation on the dangers of tobacco culminated in KMA being appropriately gazette as a board member in the **Tobacco Control Board**, created under sec 5 of the **Tobacco Control Act 2007** whose mandate is to act as an advisory body to the CS of Health on matters Tobacco. The activities of the KMA Tobacco Committee and by extension its contribution to the Tobacco Board have led to significant awareness of the dangers of tobacco in Kenya and abroad and change of lifestyle of many.

It was thus a shock when the Health Laws Amendment Bill 2021 have suggested that KMA should be removed from the board. The Health Laws Amendment Bill 2021 should be withdrawn in line with World Tobacco Day.

KMA wishes all a Happy WNTD.

Signed

Dr Were Onyino

President

President
Dr. Were Onyino.

Vice-President
Dr. Amos Otara

Secretary-General
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