

# THE COUNCIL



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

# MONTHLY

JULY 2022

## COUNTY BOSSES LIST MILESTONES DURING 9<sup>TH</sup> STATE OF DEVOLUTION ADDRESS 2022

Council of Governors Chairman, H.E Martin Wambora, delivered the 9th State of Devolution Address (SODA) on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to take stock of the achievements and challenges, as well as forge a way forward for the third generation of County Governments.

“Thanks to devolution, Kenya has witnessed unprecedented socio-economic development despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Governor Wambora.

“Tremendous progress has been witnessed in the health sector particularly in the areas of service delivery, human resources, infrastructure, and health financing. There are now 13,772 health facilities, up from 13,190 in 2021, 886 sub-county hospitals, 2,180 health centers, 10,677 dispensaries and six national reference hospitals,” he added.

According to the CoG boss, Counties spent an average of 11% of their budgets on agriculture, which translated to 5.1% expansion in the most recent fiscal year alone. The value of marketed agricultural produce rose by 4.3% overall from Sh505.3 billion in 2020 to Sh527.0 billion in 2021. Further, Counties in collaboration with the National Government have provided subsidized inputs to farmers in a bid to improve agricultural production and boost food security.

On matters disaster management, 12 counties have passed disaster management acts, while 10 have disaster management policies in an effort to mitigate the adverse effects of perennial drought in ASALs. Additionally, 2.7 million people have benefitted from the distribution of emergency food by the counties, and one million people have benefitted from water monitoring by the devolved units. To offer a framework for coordinating readiness, response, and recovery efforts, 13 counties have created county emergency operations plans.

In recognition of the integral role of the urban sector in the country’s socio-economic development, Counties have heavily invested in urban infrastructure with around 202 km of roads having been completed in municipalities.

On trade and manufacturing, Counties have registered 124,420 micro-enterprises, 87,153 small businesses, 34,727 medium-sized businesses, and 8,191 big businesses.

“To promote MSMEs, 19 counties created the county business enterprise funds to provide cheap loans, with the cumulative allocation of Sh334.5 million and a total of Sh7, 058 MSMEs benefiting,” noted Governor Wambora.

Counties have made significant investments in ECDE education. This is evidenced by the Pre-primary One and Two enrollment which has witnessed a 0.4% increase from 2.82 million in 2020 to 2.84 million in

2021. Counties have also hired 50, 964 ECDE teachers following the rising need to address the shortage of ECDE teachers and improve the quality of education.



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On water connectivity, the Council reported that a total of 2,509,012 households in Kenya are connected to piped water whereas a total of 828,927 households are connected to sewer systems.

“Counties have constructed a total of 3,184 water pans with Nyeri County leading with a total of 1,000 water pans,” reads the SODA report. Significant improvements were also cited in other sectors among them being finance, gender, youth, blue economy, tourism and natural resource management.

Despite their achievements, Counties continue to face a myriad of challenges with the unending delays in disbursement of funds by the National Treasury topping the list. The delays have often paralyzed operations in the devolved units leaving Counties unable to pay county staff their salaries, pay suppliers and offer essential services to the citizenry.

Addressing the media after the State of Devolution Address, the Council’s Vice Chairman H.E James Ongwae urged President Uhuru Kenyatta to put a stop to what he dubbed as ongoing and unjustified delays in the National Treasury’s disbursement of Counties Equitable share.

“We implore upon you [Uhuru] to direct the National Treasury to disburse the remaining fund to the counties forthwith,” stated Governor Ongwae.

While making his closing remarks, H.E Martin Wambora, alongside Devolution CS Eugene Wamalwa, led fellow Governors in launching a book highlighting the speeches of CoG leaders in transition periods and further amalgamating the SODAs that have been read since 2014.

The Council’s Chair further advised members of the public to promote peace and elect candidates who will safeguard devolution come 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Read the full address [here](#)



## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS FETES OUTGOING GOVERNORS AHEAD OF GENERAL ELECTIONS

“We are gathered here today to celebrate the great men and women who have steered Devolution on the path to success and left an indelible mark in our country,” said Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya Hon. Justice Smokin C. Wanjala on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, during a farewell luncheon for the outgoing 2nd term Governors and Deputy Governors organized by the Council of Governors.

The farewell luncheon, held at the Movenpick Hotel, was attended by Excellency Governors and Deputy Governors, Defence Cabinet Secretary and A.g Cabinet Secretary Devolution Hon. Eugene Wamalwa. Also in attendance were Danish Deputy Ambassador Trine Grønberg who was representing the Devolution Donor Working Group, and the chairman, County Assemblies Forum Hon. Ndegwa Wahome among other invited guests.

“I take this opportunity to thank you, my colleague Governors, for giving me one of the biggest surprises of my life when some of you insisted that I apply for the position of Chairman and the rest of you unanimously agreed to endorse me as your Chairman. That was not all – you graciously gave me a second chance to continue serving you. May I also take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for planning such an elaborate send-off,” said Council of Governors Chairman H.E Martin Wambora while lauding Governors for their support during his two-term tenure as CoG Boss.

The County Pension Fund CEO, Mr. Hosea Kili, OGW, noted that CPF has been a very proud partner of Devolution, serving all the 47 Counties across the Country despite the numerous challenges affecting the Devolved Units.

“I wish to recognize, and thank all the pioneer Governors and Deputy Governors who supported us during the transition years; for without that support, we would not be where we are today. It is never easy to walk the uncharted path. As one who has walked the full mile with the Council of Governors over the past 10 years, I can attest to that. We have faced obstacles together, and we have emerged stronger, together, in the true spirit of Devolution,” said Kili.

Defence Cabinet Secretary and A.g Cabinet Secretary Devolution Hon. Eugene Wamalwa termed devolution as the best model of development for Kenya and urged Governors to continue to safeguard devolution for effective service delivery to all Kenyans.

“As we celebrate 10 years of Devolution and mark the end of the second generation of County Governments, we must also acknowledge and celebrate the harmonious intergovernmental relations we have developed that have seen the 2 levels of Governments work together seamlessly through the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis,” said CS Wamalwa.

Speaking on behalf of the EU high Commissioner to Kenya, H.E Katrin Hagemann further called upon the outgoing Governors to utilize their rich experience in local governance to strengthen and deepen devolution in their different capacities.

The names of the 21 second term Governors will remain embedded in Kenya’s history for their boldness and endearing commitment in ensuring all Kenyans enjoy the fruits of devolution. To these founding fathers of devolution in Kenya, we say hongera!



# COG UNVEILS REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN KENYA

The Council of Governors (CoG) on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 launched the assessment of the impact of devolution on women and girls report at Movenpick Hotel, Nairobi. The report documents the impact of devolution on women and girls in select sectors of: Education, Health, Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, and Urban Planning.

The assessment was conducted in 14 counties namely, Busia, Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Narok, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir and West Pokot, with the support of UN Women and UNCDF.

Devolution has opened up opportunities for women and other previously marginalized groups to participate in county-level planning and budgeting, ensuring that County Governments integrate gender-responsive mechanisms. 12 years since the promulgation of the Constitution and 8 years since the inception of devolution, the report presents the Women and Girls' voices on the story of devolution.

The assessment report was commissioned by the CoG with input from a broader multi agency team with representatives drawn from: State Department in charge of Gender, State Department in charge of Devolution, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), University of Nairobi Department in charge of Gender Studies, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) among other partners.

Speaking during the Launch, H.E. Evalyn Aruasa, Deputy Governor Narok County, noted that although the principle of gender equality remains elusive in Kenya, Counties had made substantive progress in addressing the existent gender inequalities and promoting gender mainstreaming for inclusive service delivery at all levels.

For instance, Kilifi County, in collaboration with partners, has constructed a state-of-the-art newborn unit which has significantly reduced maternal and newborn mortality. Mandera County, on the other hand, has adopted gender-responsive budgeting and planning by taking into consideration potential gender impacts when designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating budget policies. Similarly, Narok County set aside funds to support the socio-economic empowerment of women and youth involved in beadwork through the Ushanga Initiative.

The report noted among others that: enrollment rates of girls in ECDE have sharply increased owing to robust investment in infrastructure and human resources by all Counties. A gendered approach has been adopted to the provision of healthcare services in different counties due to sustained resource allocation averaging 30% of the total county budgets.

CEO CoG Ms. Mary Mwiti emphasized the crucial role women and girls play in the national development agenda and called for active and meaningful participation of women and girls in political leadership and other decision making processes.

“Let us shift our mindsets and move away from discriminatory retrogressive cultural practices and social norms that disadvantage our women and girls,” added Ms. Mary Mwiti while appreciating the immense support from development partners towards the formulation of the assessment report.



# COG UNVEILS REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN KENYA

In order to achieve Gender mainstreaming at the County level, relevant infrastructure must be put in place. To achieve this, the assessment report recommends the creation of strong Gender Departments with adequate staff and budget provisions for enhanced gender mainstreaming and inclusive programming towards improved service delivery in all the County Departments.

“There is limited awareness of the linkage between revenue administration, enforcement and gender issues in gender departments at the Counties,” noted Dr. Dmitry Pozhidaev - UNCDF Global Advisor for Local Government Finance while highlighting the need to incorporate the gender dimension financing aspects and governance related factors in local Public Finance Management (PFM).

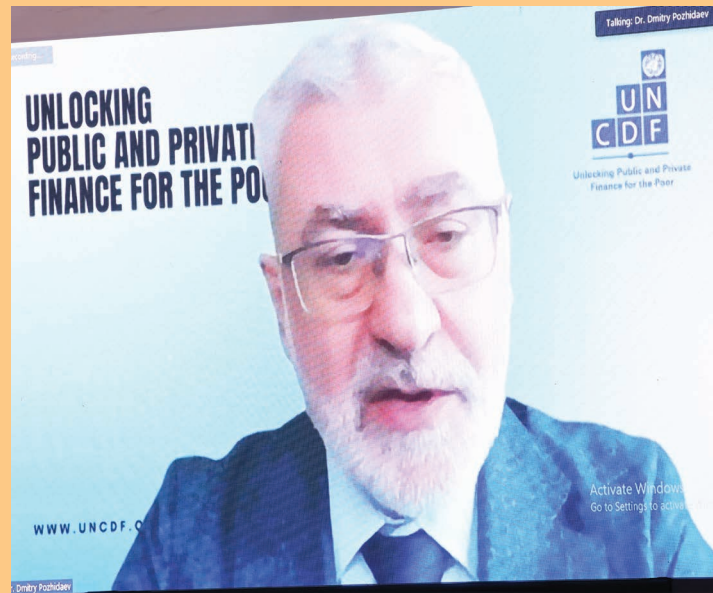
The CoG on its part will provide timely guidance to the 47 counties that are in the process of developing the 3<sup>rd</sup> CIDPs by providing minimum indicators, scorecard or gender action plans for integrating gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Ms. Lucy Mathenge on behalf of the Deputy Country Director, UN Women Kenya Country Office lauded County Governments for the milestones achieved thus far in attaining gender equality noting that adequate financing of gender interventions and data was key in ensuring gender responsive planning in Counties.

“As UN Women, we remain committed to supporting and advancing the gender equality agenda in Kenya as well as attainment of Vision 2030,” said Ms. Lucy Mathenge.

The recommendations of the assessment of the impact of devolution on women and girls report come at an opportune time when the Country is anticipating a leadership transition after the 9<sup>th</sup> August General Elections. The incumbent and incoming leadership were called upon to utilize the report as it offers useful insights that will inform the design and implementation of gender programmes. Further, the report will influence the development of policies that promote social inclusion, sustainable development and gender equality at the National and County level.

Read the full report [here](#)



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Council of Governors- Kenya

# COG ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS IN DEVELOPMENT OF INDUCTION MANUAL AMIDST INCOMING TRANSITION

In view of the forthcoming general elections that will usher in new leadership at the National and County level, the Council of Governors (CoG) has prioritised the facilitation of leadership transitions in County Governments to ensure continued service delivery to all citizens. The CoG held a joint consultative meeting with County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) for health, Chief Officers for health (COH) and County Directors of Health services (CDH) at the English point marina hotel, Mombasa from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, to review and validate the health sector induction manual.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to share our experiences in managing county health services through this induction program. This will help the new teams to settle into their roles quickly and learn from our success and mistakes. Many of us learned to fly on the job, so we thank COG for this initiative,” stated Prof Mwanje, CECM Health Services - Vihiga County.

Dr. Gordon Okomo – Chair, CDH Caucus, acknowledged that the Joint meeting between CECMs health, COH and CDH is one of its kind and further expressed his happiness in having pioneer CECMs present in the meeting.

Speaking on behalf of the CEO CoG, Ms. Irene Ogamba, Director – Legal services at the CoG urged the County leadership present to utilize their 10-year experience in the health sector to enhance delivery of health services to the local mwananchi.

“Let us ensure that critical areas of performance, governance and delivery are well captured in a manner that envisages the minimum standards that are required for efficiency and effectiveness in operations at the Counties,” noted Ms. Irene Ogamba.

This meeting comes at an opportune time when CoG sectoral committees are developing sectoral content which will be part of the orientation program for the new County leadership to be delivered later this year.

The contribution of County Governments towards the realisation of the right to health for Kenyans, since adoption of the devolution, has been immense. County Governments have reduced inequities in distribution of health workers, particularly the specialised cadres. Further, investments in new infrastructure and equipment have increased access to health care facilities and quality health care. Despite these gains, budgetary allocations dedicated to health services remain sub-optimal to cover the increasing healthcare needs of the population. With the limited fiscal space, budgets for health commodities have been seriously constrained. Addressing such critical gaps requires policy, legislative and operational interventions.

Dr. Shikely Khadija- Chair, Chief officers’ Caucus emphasized the importance of ring-fencing finances for health adding that health resource sharing could come in handy in managing Counties wage Bill.

“The management of donor transitions and sustainable resourcing for the health sector is of utmost importance,” added Ms. Claire Wanyama- Secretary general – CECM Health.

Ongoing efforts aimed at reviewing health legislative framework to not only align to the ethos of the Constitution of Kenya, but also improve operational effectiveness and efficiency at all levels of the health care system are laudable.

However, success in health as a development issue requires close collaboration between the health departments and other related sectors that contribute to social determinants of health such as education, sanitation, and nutrition.

“There is need for close collaboration and partnership between CoG, Counties and both tiers of Government to address the barriers clawing back on devolution and consolidate the gains Counties have made in the health sector,” said Ms. Gakuo Wairimu; Strategic Partnerships Officer- USAID.

From the wide consultations undertaken, the proposed induction program will be structured to orient officers on health services as a devolved function, paying attention to the policy and legislative environment, sector governance, health services planning, status of various programs running in the counties including MES equipment, transfer of functions and resources, emerging issues in the health sector and considerations for improving service delivery. Going forward, the Council will be undertaking stakeholder consultations, refining the induction handbooks and materials in readiness for delivery.



# KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



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## 48 GOVERNMENTS, 1 NATION



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