



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

THE COUNCIL

MONTHLY

JUNE 2021

DEVOLUTION TODAY:

THE STATE OF DEVOLUTION IN KENYA 2021

Council of Governors Chairman, H.E Martin Wambora delivered the 8th State of Devolution Address on 29th June 2021. The State of Devolution Address popularly referred to as SODA is a platform by the Council meant to take stock of the achievements so far, the challenges as well as forge a way forwards for County Governments.

SODA has created a forum for County Governments and the Council of Governors to remain accountable to the citizenry. This was echoed by Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and ASALs Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, in his remarks that SODA is in line with the objectives of Devolution under article 174 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 as well as Article 10 of the Constitution.

“As the first object of Devolution, we must ensure a democratic and transparent Government hence we must remain answerable to all Kenyans on what we are doing as County Governments as well as the National Government,” said Devolution CS, Eugene Wamalwa.

The County Governments achieved remarkable success in the various devolved functions in the Financial Year 2020/2021 despite the challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19. The Council of Governors and partners developed the County Socio-Economic Recovery and Re-Engineering Strategy that was launched in December 2020 in order to address the socio-economic challenges resulting from the pandemic.

Different sectors of the economy and the devolved function witnessed significant growth despite the challenges. This progress is owed to the commitment by County Governments to implement many life-changing projects. In the Agriculture sector for example, there was disruption in the local and global markets and the food distribution systems. These factors notwithstanding, the sector has been dynamic with increased investment, particularly in the export crops. In recognition of the importance of the agriculture sector to the country's economy, the County Governments have invested heavily in the sector, marking a 1.3% increase in the budget allocation by County Governments.

Other sectors that marked growth include, the Health sector that attracted heavy investment by both levels of Government as part of the response strategies to the COVID 19 pandemic. This investment has seen more investment in Human resource for health, health infrastructure as well as budgetary allocation by County Governments which has grown from 30% to 32.9% average allocation to the sector by the County Governments.

On finance: the total revenue for budget implementation in the FY 2020/2021 amounted to Kshs.416.4 billion, which consists of equitable share allocation of Kshs.316.5 billion, Conditional Grants of Kshs.43.9 billion and projected Own Source Revenue of Kshs 56.0 billion. So far

County Governments have received all their allocation amounting to Kshs. 316.5 billion as approved in the Division of Revenue Act, 2020.

To read the full address visit www.cog.go.ke



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COG FETES OUTGOING CEO

The Council of Governors applauds Honorable Lady Justice Jacqueline Mogeni, the former Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Governors, on her well-deserved appointment as a judge of the Environment and Land court. Honorable Mogeni, has been described by many as a bold and adept leader whose name is synonymous with devolution.

In a farewell luncheon organized by the Council on 29th June 2021 at Villa Rosa Kempinski, H.E Governor Alex Tolgos commended Lady Justice Mogeni for her endearing commitment to the betterment of devolution. "If a book on devolution is written, Jackie will feature in every chapter," he stated.

The event was graced by high profile dignitaries including the Speaker of the Senate Hon. Kenneth Lusaka, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Devolution and ASALs Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Excellency Governors and Deputy Governors, Chair of the Devolution Donor Group, Ambassador Ole Thonke, Chairman County Assemblies Hon. Ndegwa Wahome, the first Chairman of the Council of Governors Hon. Isaac Ruto among other invited guests.

Lady Justice Jacqueline Mogeni has been in the Devolution space since her days in the Transition Authority before she was seconded to the Council of Governors to assist in the implementation of the then "Monster" – devolution, a position she has held for 8 years. She is hailed for putting in sweat, tears and extra hard work including long working hours to ensure that Devolution which Kenyans voted for through a referendum was beneficial to them. Lady Justice Mogeni is also credited for putting up systems and structures within the Council of Governors and in the Counties, through capacity building of Governors to ensure that the devolved system of Governance is working.

Speaking during the ceremony, Hon Wycliffe Oparanya, the immediate former Chairman of the Council of Governors celebrated her performance over the period. "Ms. Mogeni's legal background has been very instrumental in setting up the structures we have today, both at the Council of Governors and at the County Level," Governor Oparanya said.

Lady Justice Mogeni was famous among the secretariat staff for her wise words, among them that "you are judged by what you finish, not what you start", and indeed her achievements precede her. She leaves the Council having accomplished everything she set out to do. Thanks to her efforts, the Council is now fully operational and up to task with its mandate, as spelt in the Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2012.

During her tenure, Lady Justice Mogeni also successfully convened 6 annual Devolution Conferences as well as 7 State of Devolution Addresses. Through such forums, County Governments have had the opportunity to deliberate on various pertinent issues affecting County Governments, as well as mobilize resources to implement critical projects and programmes. Further, she empowered County Governments to implement their CIDPs (County Integrated Development plan) which saw counties better implement development projects to improve the quality of life of citizens.

The Council of Governors, led by Justice Mogeni, and in partnership with the Kenya School of Government and UN Women launched the Transformative leadership program for County Women Executives. This revolutionary programme has equipped women executives with the requisite skills needed to champion initiatives that have a lasting impact on service delivery and management of public resources including gender-responsive budgeting, planning, programming,

implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of County programs.

Justice Mogeni's exemplary leadership skills coupled with unwavering support from Excellency governors and the COG secretariat has facilitated the successful implementation of the council's core mandate and efficient delivery of services to the local mwananchi. The solidarity displayed by the devolution family in moments of great adversity and peril, and steadfast defense in moments of trials and tribulations, further strengthened Mogeni's resolve and enabled her to serve to the best of her ability.

While much has been achieved, the Council of Governors continues to face a myriad of challenges. The Council of Governors, the secretariat and development partners need to combine their synergies and work in harmony for the advancement of devolution. Let us each endeavor to mirror the exemplary leadership skills displayed by Justice Mogeni and be champions of devolution in our different capacities.

We celebrate you Honorable Justice Mogeni and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



LAUNCH OF THE 2 MILLION TREE GROWING INITIATIVE IN EMBU COUNTY.

As the 7th and Final Annual Devolution Conference scheduled for 23rd - 26th August 2021 draws near, the Steering Committee spearheading the “2 Million Tree Growing Initiative” on Friday, 11th June 2021 took the edition to the Jeramiah Nyaga Technical Institute in Embu County.

Championed by the host Governor and Chairman of the Council of Governors, H.E Martin Wambora, EGH, the Embu edition was the fourth to be launched after similar ones held in Machakos, Kajiado and Makueni Counties.

In his remarks, H.E Wambora, lauded efforts by 38 counties that have grown over 5 million tree seedlings during the ongoing rainy season, with a target of an additional 7.3 million tree seedlings before the end of this rainy season.

“I am happy that all the 47 County Governments have demonstrated unwavering commitment towards this cause through rigorous tree planting. This initiative will be celebrated during the 7th and final annual devolution conference to be held in Makueni County whose theme is “Multi level Governance for Climate Action”, said H.E Wambora.

“Embu County is marking this day with a pledge to increase the tree cover to over 17% by the year 2030 from the present County average of 13.2%.” he added.

Speaking during the tree growing event, Vihiga Governor, H.E Dr. Wilber Otichillo, vowed to rally fellow Governors to mainstream climate change as the main threat to survival of mankind and development of the country.

“As Governors, we are working together with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Devolution, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and World Bank where we intend to get over Sh32 billion which will be availed to the county governments to mainstream climate change as the main driver of development in the country,” H.E Otichillo said.

On his part, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, said the Ministry of Devolution is working closely with Council of Governors, Ministry of Environment, and other non-state actors to ensure the 2 Million Trees target is achieved before 23rd August 2021.

“I am grateful to be in Embu County to champion this campaign of the



National and County Governments partnering with interested parties to ensure we meet the target of two million trees by August. I also want to encourage all Counties to ensure they grow trees to combat climate change since it's the biggest threat facing us and our future generations,” said CS Wamalwa.

Currently 16 out of the 47 counties have their climate change acts in place while the rest whom haven't are missing out on billions of donor funds because they have not put in place their Climate change legislations.

In addition, CS Wamalwa said his Ministry was working closely with Council of Governors, Ministry of Environment, and other non-state actors to ensure the 2 Million Trees target is achieved.

“I am grateful to be here in Embu County to champion this campaign of the National and County Governments partnering with interested parties to ensure we meet the target of two million trees by August. I also want to encourage all Counties to ensure they plant trees to combat climate change since it's the biggest threat facing us and our future generations,” said Wamalwa.

Environment and Forest Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Keriako Tobiko, who was the chief guest at the event, applauded the Council of Governors for embracing tree growing, urging Counties to set up the Climate Change Fund to boost the promotion of environmental conservation efforts and raise forest cover to the recommended 10 per cent.

“We have been working round the clock together for the last months in preparation for the upcoming 7th Devolution Conference to take place in August. The theme is set to be on climate change and that's why we're here working to restore our forest cover,” Tobiko said.

County Assemblies Forum Secretary General, Hon. Kipkurui Chepkwony, gave his assurance on behalf of the Assemblies, that the 31 remaining counties that have not approved and passed the climate change laws will have do so before the commencement of the Conference.



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Council of Governors- Kenya

MODEL FOREST MANAGEMENT AND TREE GROWING POLICY AND BILL

The Council of Governors with the support of UNDP REDD+ programme and the thematic working group members consisting of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KFS, IGRTC, AGs office, KLRC, KEFRI, KWTA, among others, organized a briefing session for the Excellency Governors. In attendance were H.E Francis Kimemia, EGH, CBS, HSC, the COG chairperson for Water Forestry and Natural Resources Management Committee and H.E Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, the COG Chairperson for Environment and Climate Change. The session aimed at seeking input and blessings of the leadership as Counties embark on domesticating the model sustainable forest Management and Tree Growing Policy and Bill.

The model policy and Bill will help in addressing; the implementation of forestry Transition Implementation Plan (TIPs), management and conservation of County forests and trees, harmonization of National and County Government mandates, county cross boundary issues and the movement of forestry products among others.

According to Kenya's Forest Reference Level (FRL) for REDD+, deforestation is estimated at 103,368 hectares per year (0.17% Surface area). The chief drivers of deforestation include land conversion for agriculture and settlement, charcoal production and Forest Fires. Currently, forest cover in the country has seen a resurgence and stands at around 7.4%. This however is still far from the country's goal of achieving 10% cover. The improved Nationally Determined Contributions seek to achieve this goal as Kenya sets its sights on decreasing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030. One way to close the gap towards achievement of these goals lies in the legislative and institutional framework in place in the Country.

Legislative and institutional framework is key. It can ease the process of achieving goals set out by the country, especially those related to forest cover, in a bid to exert changes to the effects of global warming and the ever encroaching arid and semi-arid landscape. ASAL areas presently occupy over 80% of the country's landmass and is home to about 36% of the total human population and is home to 70% and 90% of the national livestock and wildlife populations. A robust legal and institutional framework will facilitate Kenya to achieve its goals of covering 51 million hectares of land with trees and its minimum of 10% forest cover goals by 2030.

Tree cover goals in Kenya can only be achieved by increasing the number of trees in private holdings and through a proper forest management framework in the legal and institutional spheres. Furthermore, the importance of forest care should be inculcated to the populous from a young age this will enable everyone to play their part in healing the lungs of the planet. Band-aids and surgery are not an option.

“The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its sustenance and extends generously the products of its life activity; it affords protection to all beings, offering shade even to the axe-man who destroys it.” – Gautama Buddha.



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KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



VENUE: Makueni Boys High School, Makueni County

DATE: 23rd - 26th August, 2021

THEME: Multi – level governance for climate action.
Sub-National mobilization in unlocking the full potential of climate action during and after the Pandemic.



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