

THE COUNCIL



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

MONTHLY

OCTOBER 2021

COG ADVOCATES FOR INCREASED EQUITABLE SHARE TO ENHANCE DEVOLUTION

The Council of Governors(CoG) has expressed its disapproval of a proposal to retain revenues allocated to County Governments at Kshs370 billion warning such a move will stifle devolution and impede economic recovery. Speaking during a full Council meeting held on October 18, 2021, the Council's Finance and Planning Committee Chairperson, H.E Ndiritu Muriithi, said the funding proposed by the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) does not reflect the projected growth in revenue.

“We note with concern that CRA's proposal does not reflect and is not commensurate to the growth of the revenue for the Financial Year 2022/23, which is estimated at Kshs2.147 trillion, from the current Financial Year 2021/22 which stands at Kshs1.807 trillion,” he said.

The amount proposed by CRA represents a marginal increase in the sum allocated to Counties in the Financial Year 2020/21 when Kshs368.9 billion was allocated after an earlier proposal of Kshs316 billion was reconsidered. CRA cited a depressed economy and efforts to manage public debt which currently stands at Kshs7.7 trillion.

CoG Chairperson H.E Martin Wambora further insisted County Governors would not accept a non-increment of the County equitable share and recommended that the same be reviewed by the CRA. He noted that an enhanced allocation would be in tandem with the recent proposal to raise revenues apportioned to Counties to 35 per cent of all revenue collected by the National Government. This is also proposed in the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

Counties have consistently advocated for an increase of the equitable share from the minimum threshold of 15% to 35%. Therefore the Council will continue to lobby for an increase of kshs381.45 billion in the County allocation bringing the total to kshs751.45 billion.

While the proposal is yet to be realized, Governors expressed optimism that key stakeholders in the devolution space will cooperate to advance the delivery of devolved services assigned to County Governments which include agriculture, health services and pollution control.

On transport, the County bosses called for the disbursement of the Road Maintenance Levy Fund to Counties as conditional grants and not equitable share as is the case. Governors also vowed to honor summons by the Senate Committee on Transport, and the Senate Public Accounts Committee (PAC) while pledging to work together to facilitate smooth implementation of their functions.

On health, the Council announced a Kshs1.2 billion additional funding by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) to support and strengthen Level 1 community health units.

On deployment of Cuban doctors in the country, H.E Wambora

mentioned that phase two of the initiative was already underway with 79 Cuban doctors who completed the induction programme at the Kenya School of Government waiting to be dispatched to Counties on 25th October 2021.

On another note, H.E Wambora alongside Governors H.E Samuel ole Tunai (Narok), H.E Hillary Barchok (Bomet), H.E Paul Chepkwony (Kericho) and H.E Dr. Wilber Ottichilo (Vihiga), stated that the 7th (and Final) Annual Devolution Conference 2021, initially postponed in August following a presidential directive suspending all public gathering, was finally back on course. The Annual meeting, which will be the final conference under the 2013-2022 tenure, is slated for 23rd – 26th November 2021 at Makeni Boys High school.



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GOVERNORS' COUNCIL ROOTS FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TO ENHANCE PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES

The Council of Governors has called for the allocation of additional resources to bolster training and capacity building on palliative care services across the country.

The Council made the appeal during the launch of a National Palliative Care Policy, the country's first blueprint on comfort care, and the opening of the new Nairobi Hospice Building, presided over by the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Margaret Kenyatta.

The opening comes ahead of this year's World Hospice and Palliative Care Day that was marked on 9th October, 2021 under the theme, "Leave no one behind; Equity in access to palliative care."

Council of Governors Health Committee Vice Chairman H.E Sospeter Ojaamong who attended the launch on Friday 8th October, 2021, underscored the need for increased involvement of community health workers in provision of palliative care to bridge the existing gap. "I believe that this Policy will go a long way in identifying solutions and paving way for increased allocation of resources to establish more palliative and hospice centres; it will also provide the necessary template for provision of affordable medicine and treatment for managing symptoms," he noted.

Governor Ojaamong (Busia) appealed to both National and County Governments' leadership to sustain efforts to invest more resources and funds towards the fight against cancer, outlying some of the Council's recommendations that include establishment of hospices across all 47 Counties, ensuring smooth and comprehensive dissemination of the policy and formulation of guidelines that will help enhance delivery of palliative care service.

"Provision of palliative care to patients and families faced with various illnesses remains an essential part of any responsible health system. This is critical since it ensures that people lead high quality pain-free and dignified lives even amidst sickness," he said.

H.E Ojaamong disclosed that a majority of patients are diagnosed with cancer at an advanced stage where palliative care is critical, stressing the need to improve access to quality palliative care services to break down various barriers including financing.

On her part, First Lady H.E Margaret Kenyatta said the provision of palliative care would help lower the nation's disease burden, and she challenged decision-makers in Kenya's health sector to ensure the services are available across the country.

She also called for increased involvement of community health workers in the provision of palliative care through training and capacity building.

"We have all experienced the pain families endure when loved ones have been diagnosed with chronic or life-threatening illnesses. Cancer, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular diseases, dementia and kidney failure are some of the ailments that require this care," she said.

Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr. Mercy Mwangangi said the new policy will help steer the government's ambitious plan to increase the number of palliative care centres in the country while World Health Organization Country Representative Juliet Nabyonga committed her organization's support towards Kenya's health sector.

The National Palliative Care Policy seeks to provide the necessary template for the provision of affordable medicine and treatment for managing symptoms.



EAST AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION (EALGA) AND EAST AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FORUM (EALGF) MEETINGS IN KIGALI, RWANDA

Decentralization systems have been adopted across Africa albeit in different models including decongestion, deconcentration, devolution and federalism. Sub national governments are dotted all across the African continent. In East Africa, local governance can be traced in the entire region and local governments and their associations come together through two platforms- the East African Local Governments Association (EALGA) and the East African Local Governments Forum (EALGF).

EALGA brings together all the County/local governments associations in the region to champion their interests at the East Africa Community (EAC) level and within the region. Membership of EALGA comprises of: Association des Communes du Burundi (ACO BURUNDI), Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT), the County Assemblies Forum of Kenya (CAF), the Council of County Governors of Kenya (CoG), the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) and the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA). On the other hand, EALGF brings together the Ministers and Principal Secretaries from the East African region who are in charge of Ministries responsible for local governance. These are mainly national/central government representatives.

This year from 4th October to 8th October, EALGA and EALGF convened their Annual General Meetings (AGMs) in Kigali, Rwanda. The AGMs are convened for two reasons- to elect new leaders for the two institutions; and to discuss matters of common interest to subnational governments of the East African region. On this premise, at the Kigali meeting, EALGA's leadership changed with RALGA taking over as Chair from ALAT, and CAF taking the position of Vice- Chair.

Apart from elections, there were key panels discussing issues of interest to local governments in East Africa. On localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributions from various speakers revealed that East African states are on different levels in the implementation of Agenda 2030. Efforts to mainstream SDGs in national planning processes were evident across the region and this was noted as commendable.

EALGA members were also emphatic that there is need for strengthened and deeper engagements between the region's subnational governments and the East African Community (EAC). It is

anticipated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the EAC Secretariat and EALGA will boost active collaborations between the two institutions and that subnational governments will have a strong voice at EAC. Local Economic Development (LED) was a topic that also generated a lot interest at the EALGA/F meeting. Two main issues that arose from the deliberations around LED were: i) the need for subnational governments to attract private sector investments to drive economic development; and ii) the need for local governments to create an enabling environment for expanding value chains across sectors. A common position that was reiterated over and over again was that subnational governments are instrumental in trade promotion across the region.

Transnational networks of subnational governments have become useful platforms for: conducting peer to peer learning; sharing of best practices; resource mobilization; and consolidating local governance voices around decentralization issues. Being a member of EALGA has given CoG and its work continental and regional visibility and it has boosted County Governments' linkages with counterpart local government associations in the region. As the East African region seeks to deepen integration, bodies like EALGA and EALGF play a critical role in this goal.



COG AND UNDP PROPOSE SCALING UP YOUTH INNOVATION HUBS AFTER SUCCESSFUL ROLLOUT IN ISIOLO

The Council of Governors (CoG) with the support of UNDP is considering scaling up youth innovation hubs in Counties based on best practices learnt from the Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre (IYIC).

The center, which seeks to realize the full potential of youth towards active participation through skills-based development, was launched on October 8, 2020 with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). CoG and UNDP recently concluded a documentation process undertaken from 4th to 7th October during which a joint team interviewed ten beneficiaries to pick best practices which can be replicated in other Counties.

Established through collaboration with Kenya School of Government (KSG) with support from UNDP, Huawei, Ministry of Youth and ICT, UK Aid, the Norwegian Embassy and other partners, the innovation Centre was mandated to build the competency of youth to take up jobs and develop entrepreneurial ventures. The hub is centered on seven thematic areas namely: Capacity Building, Innovation, Creative Arts, Research and Consultancy, Sports, Institutional Capacity Development and Environment.

IYIC has enabled the youth to work with other local institutions to adopt new business models and expand the number of jobs available for youths. It has also provided capacity development on high-potential business models that involve hiring youth as part of the expansion strategy.

The centre encompasses an ICT cyberspace with a computer lab where young people receive training on mobile and computer applications, and provide a platform for youths interested in innovations, while those in the entertainment industry also receive training in film making to enable them fully exploit their talents and earn a living.

The innovation hub targeting youths aged between 18 and 35 from low-income households, as well as the marginalized in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) Counties, has also facilitated capacity building for the youth leading to a 25% increase in the uptake of Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) by youth, women and persons living with disabilities. The centre has created employment opportunities for the youth and has supported the fight against violent extremism and radicalization as well as other harmful practices such as drug and substance abuse.

The Centre embraces participation and ownership of the youth by involvement in every step of development and implementation with an active Youth Advisory Council and youths' representatives at Board of Trustees level.

Based on the key successes of the innovation hub, the UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Stephen Jackson together with the Cabinet Secretary Ministry for ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs Hon. Joseph Mucheru, Isiolo County Governor H.E. Dr. Mohammed Kutu, Tana River County Governor H.E. Major (Rtd) Dhadho Ghodhana, Principal Secretary Ministry for ICT Innovation and Youth Affairs Charles Sunkuli, UNDP Resided Representative Walid Badawi, Ag. CEO Council of Governors Ms. Mary Mwititi together with a host of dignitaries undertook a visit to the centre on 14th September 2021.

Speaking during the visit, Ms. Aisha Hussein, a beneficiary of the program, said the innovation hub had helped enrich her understanding

on gender inequality.

"I used to think gender was a woman only issue. Through the Centre, I have received training on gender issues. I have been equipped to pass the information down to other members of my community, and they now understand that to solve gender imbalance, women need to involve men and openly discuss how they can bridge the gender inequality in society. This includes issues of early marriages, FGM and employment," she said.

Mr. Nur Juma, a beneficiary who received training on agribusiness, said he had enlarged his business using valuable lessons from the program. "It's time for the youth to rise and venture into Agri-business to improve their livelihoods. Through the Centre, I was trained in Agribusiness and hydroponic farming.

"I have managed to get 3 acres of land where I am practicing fish farming, vegetable farming, rabbit keeping and beekeeping. I sell my products to supermarkets in Isiolo at wholesale price. We have a long-term agreement with local supermarkets. I intend to expand my supply to Meru and Nyeri counties," he said.

KSG, with support from UNDP and in collaboration with Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) Secretariat, is planning to set up another Youth Innovation Centre in Tana River County based on the successes and lessons drawn from the Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre.



KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



**The Seventh ^{and Final} Annual
DEVOLUTION
CONFERENCE | 2021**

**It's
BACK**

**MULTI – LEVEL GOVERNANCE
FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

SUB-NATIONAL MOBILIZATION IN UNLOCKING THE FULL
POTENTIAL OF CLIMATE ACTION DURING AND AFTER PANDEMICS

DATES: 23RD - 26TH NOVEMBER, 2021
VENUE: MAKUENI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL,
MAKUENI COUNTY

visit: www.devolutionconference.cog.go.ke

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BE LEFT
OUT!!**