

# Republic of Kenya



## Office of the Governor

### Government of Makueni County

#### **Speech of H.E Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, Governor, Makueni County, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017, Unoa Grounds, Wote.**

H.E. Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Former Vice President, Deputy Leader of the National Super Alliance (NASA) Coalition and Party Leader of the Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya,  
H.E. Adelina Mwau, Deputy Governor, Makueni County,  
Hon. Justice Rose Ougo,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Hon. Mutula Kilonzo Jr., Senator-Elect, Makueni County  
Elected Members of Parliament,  
Dr. Cleopa Mailu, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health,  
Gen. (Rtd.) Jeremiah Kianga, Former Chief of the Defence Forces (CDF),  
Eng. Victor Kyalo, Principal Secretary, ICT and Innovation, Ministry of ICT,  
Mr. Alex Ole Nkoyo, County Commissioner Makueni,  
Elected Members of the County Assembly,  
Outgoing Speaker, Makueni County Assembly,  
Outgoing Members of the County Assembly,  
Clerk of the County Assembly,  
County Public Servants,  
The Clergy,  
Professionals,  
Elders Present,  
Officials of Various Political Parties,  
The Assumption to Office of the Governor Committee,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We thank you for honouring us with your presence during this festive and historic occasion. We are immensely honoured to host you our distinguished guests and representatives of our people from all wards at this seat of our county government. Your presence among us today expands our joy.

We are grateful to the people of Makueni for the confidence you have shown on us. We thank you for turning out in large numbers and voting peacefully in the just concluded elections. Through this, you have given us a resounding victory and a fresh mandate to serve you for

another 5-year term. We pray to God that together we will write a gratifying history and mission for our county and country.

We appreciate our campaigners who have traversed this vast county and have delivered this victory.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are greatly touched by the outpouring of kind words of congratulation and assurance of support and accompaniment during this second cycle of devolved governance in our country.

During the first cycle of devolution, we faced numerous challenges which we were able to surmount as we sought to lay a firm foundation for devolution. These include:

- Lack of proper preparation by the Transition Authority for a monumental change of governance;
- The protracted conflict between the County Assembly and County Executive over the budget that eventually led our people to petition for their government to be suspended. This adversarial tug of war at the outset led to a loss of 2 years of work and limited our delivery as government resulting in initial low absorption of development funds;
- Nurturing harmony among our 3,500 staff that includes those inherited from the local authorities and the national government and those recruited by the County government;
- Addressing the high poverty levels in the county-64%-and the resultant dependency syndrome;
- Youth and women marginalization;
- The water problem in most parts of the county;
- Increased sand harvesting and deforestation leading to environmental degradation;
- The vagaries of weather emanating from the effects of climate change;
- Integrity issues among some of our staff;
- Towns and urban centres that are ‘sleeping’, this is, with limited economic activity; and
- Inadequate policy and legal frameworks.

Despite these challenges we have been able to score many successes. These include:

- The establishment of systems, structures, processes and procedures for efficient running of the government;
- Overcoming of the impasse with the County Assembly and undertaking development work despite the odds;
- Institutionalizing the elaborate people’s government and public participation framework consisting of Village People’s Forums, Village Cluster People’s Forums, Sub Ward People’s Forums, Ward People’s Forums, Sub County People’s Forums and the County People’s Forum and their respective development committees. Project Management Committees (PMCs) that supervise the implementation of each development project and authorize payment to contractors are part of this framework;
- A comprehensive civic education programme that has raised the civic consciousness of our people;
- Implementation of universal healthcare in which all residents are being treated for free in our health facilities after the required registration process per household;

- The *Makueni County Climate Change Fund Regulations, 2015* that provides a framework for mitigating the effects of climate change and mobilizing resources for climate change adaptation interventions;
- Construction of 115 learner-friendly ECDE centres and support to the over 1,500 ECDE centres in the county with kiddy chairs and learning and teaching materials. We are also among the first to employ 900 ECDE teachers;
- We have provided 104 full scholarships to very poor and needy students who scored over 350 marks in their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination;
- We have provided over 7,000 bursaries annually to students in secondary schools, colleges, County Technical Training Institutes (CTTIs) and in universities;
- We have invested heavily in the construction and equipping of CTTIs to enable our youth to access technical education;
- We have planned 120 markets, surveyed 30 markets and facilitated the acquisition of over 15,000 land title deeds by our people free of charge;
- Introduction of the *Tetheka* Fund loans which are interest-free with a one-off administrative cost of 3% charged. Through *Tetheka* Fund, 136 groups of persons with disability and 640 other groups have been given loans worth Kenya Shillings 43,260,000;
- Targeted empowerment, training and licensing of *boda boda* entrepreneurs leading to formation of *boda boda* Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) with over 20 Million Kenya Shillings in savings;
- Support to Financial Services Associations (FSA) and Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) societies leading to the establishment and registration of 21 new SACCOs. The Makueni County Hawkers SACCO has also been supported with 2 lorries to trade their wares with ease; and
- The construction and commissioning of the Makueni Fruit Processing Plant at Kalamba.

With these successes and following our rallying call, *Andu Mbee, Kila Nyumba O Kalila*, a household economy is in its formative stage.

In our State of the County Address in June this year in which we gave a detailed account of the work we had accomplished as per the mandate entrusted to us in 2013, we affirmed our conviction that devolution is here to stay and demonstrated that we had laid a firm foundation for devolution to flower during this term that you have overwhelmingly voted for us to serve you.

On this historic day, the beginning of the second cycle of devolved governance, we pledge to you our people that we will never betray the trust you have bestowed on us. We assure you that we will not turn our back on the progress we have made.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

*Kutwiikany'a Silikali (Woni na Mivango ya Silikali)*/Establishing the Makueni County Government

As devolution begins to flower, we commit ourselves to secure the elaborate citizen's government that we have put in place through enabling legislation. This will fully institutionalize our participatory, responsive and people-centred government.

We are committed to the actualization of the programmes in our development blueprint, the Makueni County Vision 2025. The County Integrated Development Plan for 2018-2022 therefore

draws from Vision 2025 and our County Spatial Plan for 2017-2022 and is linked to our national Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In implementing the projects outlined in our Vision 2025, we will endeavour to increase our engagement with the national government, other county governments and development partners (both local and international) towards mutually beneficial interventions. Close cooperation and collaboration among all elected leaders in the county (the Governor and Deputy Governor, the Senator, the Woman Member of the National Assembly, the Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the County Assembly (MCAs)) will also assure the realization of holistic development for our people.

Going forward, we will review and strictly enforce County laws and regulations including the Makueni Sand Conservation and Utilization Authority Act, 2015 and regulations thereof. We call on you, the people, to participate actively in this endeavour.

It is our hope that the County Assembly will, in collaboration with the Executive, move fast to develop the required policies and laws to actualize/cover the functions as set out in Schedule Four Part 2 of the Constitution of Kenya and ensure the implementation of all functions of County governments. Key among these is a Water Bill that is set to be presented to the Assembly to address the challenges in the sustainability of water development, utilization and governance. A water resource masterplan for the County and a water policy will also be developed.

We maintain our resolve to introduce an anti-corruption law in our government drawing from Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya and the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012.

For performance management, we commit ourselves to:

- Strengthen our internal government processes and procedures;
- Increase our investment in training and development of our public service towards efficient service delivery;
- Gradual automation and decentralization of government service delivery; and
- Institutionalization of performance management practices including performance contracting and ISO Certification to assure improvement of performance in the public service against set targets towards efficient service delivery and increased citizen satisfaction.

#### *Kutwiikany'a Kiwu/Holistic Water Harvesting*

We have committed 1 Billion Kenya Shillings in the 2017/18 financial year budget to water projects. This will ensure that all our people have access to potable and reliable water supply. We intend to construct mega dams, sand dams and boreholes complete with treatment plants, storage facilities and then expand the water distribution network to incrementally reach citizens at the household level. We will also strengthen our water and sewerage companies and promote rural water governance institutions to ensure prudent water resource governance in the county.

We plan to construct the sewerage system in Wote and Mtito Andei Towns and later Emali and Sultan Hamud in collaboration with the County Government of Kajiado. This will be backed by an elaborate urban areas solid waste management programme.

### *Kutwiikany'a Mbesa/Wealth Creation through Provision of Financial Services*

We are in the process of operationalizing the Ene Microfinance Bank. We are confident that our efforts in strengthening our cooperatives, including the newly established boda boda Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), we will contribute to the stability of this microfinance bank. Our efforts in implementing the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) initiative with strict provision of 30% affirmative business to the youth, women and people with disability will also contribute to this initiative.

In the past we have exceeded the 20% procurement reservation for locally based businesses and we intend to exceed this so as to stimulate wealth creation among our people and encourage them to bank with Ene Microfinance Bank. We are certain that innovative products such as LPO Financing and bid bonds at competitive prices will encourage our business people to patronize our bank.

We will increase the Tetheka Fund that is available to groups with a one-off 3% administrative charge so that more funds are available for these among other new products: *Mkopo Matunda* and the Dam Liners products.

As we do this, we assure you of honest, prudent and accountable management of public finances.

### *Kutwiikany'a Viasala/Entrepreneurship*

We commit ourselves to:

- Establish Wote Municipality in line with the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011;
- Strengthen the governance structures of our market centres;
- Develop our industrial zone of Emali and Sultan Hamud and the ICT Hub-the Konza Techno City in collaboration with the national government; and
- Promote cottage industries in the county.

We have allocated 80 Million Kenya Shillings for urban development in the 2017/18 financial year budget. With increased urbanization, it is imperative to stimulate the sustainable development of our urban centres and to spur the development of the second economy towards wealth creation by our people.

### *Kutwiikany'a Uima wa Mwii/ Provision of Health Services*

We commit ourselves to continue with the provision of universal health care to our people. It is our hope that the County Assembly will approve the legal framework for this important service. We will now focus on improving services in our health facilities and will invest in diagnostic equipment and technology. We will strengthen our primary health care through our community health strategy and address the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases. We also plan to complete and operationalize the Makindu Trauma Centre. We will also operationalize the 120 bed capacity Mother and Child Hospital that we have constructed here in Wote.

### *Kutwiikany'a Kisomo/Promotion of Education*

We are committed to increasing access to quality education and training through:

- Improvement of the quality of education in our Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres including the introduction of nutrition support;
- Improvement of the quality of education in our County Technical Training Institutes (CTTIs) and the establishment of model CTTIs in each Sub County;
- Investing in libraries in our schools and communities;
- Establishment of a county education endowment fund; and
- Enhancing quality assurance and governance of our ECDEs and CTTIs.

### *Kutwiikany'a Andu/Social Protection*

Our social protection interventions will entail:

- Integration of youth, women and people with disabilities empowerment in all County programmes;
- Establishment of Makueni Youth Service;
- Talent development of the youth including the completion and operationalization of the Ngakaa Model Talent Centre;
- Support to Mau Mau veterans;
- Support to persons living with HIV/AIDS;
- Supplementing the national government programme that provides a monthly stipend to those aged 65 years and above;
- Increasing child protection through support to vulnerable children; and
- Development of a county disability mainstreaming and development policy.

### *Kutwiikany'a Malelu na Miendele/Development of Roads, Transport and Infrastructure*

We commit ourselves to:

- Increase transport infrastructure development;
- Construct new county roads and maintain the existing county road network;
- Purchase 2 fire engines and related firefighting equipment;
- Invest in green energy generation;
- Complete the construction of the Thwake Bridge; and
- Rehabilitate and upgrade Makindu Airstrip in collaboration with the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA).

### *Kutwiikany'a Nima/Agriculture*

We commit ourselves to:

- Increase agricultural production through irrigated agriculture. We commit to put over 5,000 hectares under irrigation and develop new irrigation schemes;
- Strengthen our dairy development programme in Mbooni and all other Sub Counties;
- Assure better prices for our fruits through the Makueni Fruit Processing Plant and Makueni Fruit Development Authority; and
- Develop various value chains including for: horticulture such as avocado from Kaiti, dairy, green grams, macadamia and poultry.

*Kutwiikany'a Mituo na Mikalile/Promotion of Moral and Ethical Values*

I personally wish to be guided by these two scriptural messages in the next five years:

In 2 Kings 3:17, the prophet Elisha said of his people and land:

‘For this is what the Lord says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink’.

I ask of God that this prophecy be fulfilled also in Makueni.

Exodus 33: 15-16 records a conversation between God and Moses as follows:

‘Then Moses said to him, ‘If your presence does not go with us, do not send us from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?’

We ask God to go with us the people of Makueni and Kenya to our devolution Canaan.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In collaboration with the leadership of the County Assembly, we will facilitate the formal induction of the Members of the County Assembly and County Executive so that they are aware of their respective roles. We must have a break with our past engagement as two separate governments.

This last week, my deputy and I and all elected leaders in our county participated in a thanksgiving ceremony facilitated by our clergy. We together prayed to God for unity of purpose in our service to you our people. We are therefore determined that where in the past we have suffered the ignominy of being the first county government whose citizens sought to have suspended due to protracted conflict between the Executive and the Assembly, we should now and in the future testify to the possibility of building a cohesive and efficient county government that transforms the lives of its people with prosperity for all households.

We have emphasized collaboration among all our elected leaders as we serve the same people and therefore synergy among all of us will ensure less duplication of effort as we think, plan together and execute our plans in a collaborative manner that benefits our people. The government we are privileged to lead will ensure this happens and will play a facilitative role in bringing us together. This is because we are entrusted with the unique opportunity to work together for a strong and secure future for our people and county.

We thank the outgoing Members of the County Assembly, County Executive Committee members and Chief Officers who have worked with us in our first administration. We also appreciate the support of the County Public Service Board and the county public service.

We thank all of you that have come from near and far to be with us as we carried out the solemn act of the inauguration of the Governor and Deputy Governor of our county and by extension the inauguration of the new government.

We remain conscious of the fact that we have now entered into a contract with you the people, to work in partnership to build Makueni-the county of promise. We therefore assure you of an

inclusive government that will engage all sectors of our society: hawkers, *boda boda* entrepreneurs, business people, the clergy, professionals, scholars, students, youth and women groups, people with disability and minority groups just to mention a few.

I thank you for your attention.

Kivutha Kibwana,

**Governor.**