



**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

---

**SPEECH BY HE KINUTHIA MBUGUA on Behalf of Council of Governors  
AT THE 2<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL DEPUTY GOVERNORS CONFERENCE  
JANUARY 27 – 29, 2016  
ENASHIPAI RESORT, NAIVASHA**

---

**His Excellency, The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E  
Hon William Ruto**

**The Principal Secretary Mwanamaka Mabruki**

**Excellency Governors Present**

**Excellency Deputy Governors**

**Development partners,**

**All protocol Observed,**

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

**Good Morning,**

**It is my pleasure and honour to be here with you today at the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Deputy Governors' Leadership Conference themed "Building Winning Teams for County Effectiveness". This theme could not have come at a better time! I would also like to thank all the participants for taking time to attend this very important conference aimed at ensuring good governance and visionary leadership in County Governments.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Currently, we still have many challenges facing the realization of the devolution promise:**

- 1. We are at a critical stage where the transition period is coming to an end, yet, we still have functions that are yet to be devolved to the County Governments as stipulated and anticipated by law. These include unbundling of the regional water authorities to determine the sharing of assets and settling of billions of shillings in loans, and the unbundling of agriculture parastatals;**

- 2. Perpetual delay of transfer of funds to the County Governments;**
- 3. Development of laws and policies which are unconstitutional and that do not respect the distribution of functions under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution; and**
- 4. The absence of Sub-National borrowing frame-work which makes County Governments not able to borrow to supplement own revenues. If the National Government borrows for devolved functions, this affects sharable revenue for counties among other challenges.**
- 5. Visible disharmony in the management of the counties; this has been witnessed in some of the counties where the Governors and the Deputies have been seen to be at cross road.**
- 6. Political interference in the management of the county affairs among other challenges**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Despite the challenges outlined above, the County Governments have been set up as fully functioning Governments within a period of three years. In these three years, Counties have had operational budgets, with various development projects in line with their County Integrated Development Plans and specific sector plans. Through these development projects, County Governments have been able to achieve great strides in the undertaking of the various devolved functions. For example, just to mention a few;**

- In the education sector, there has been an approximate increase of 812,225 in the number of children who have been enrolled in ECDE centres since devolution. This is a 47% increase in the number of children who now have access to ECDE facilities. This has been catered for by the recruitment of 25,101 teachers. So far 5,291 ECDE centres have been built and 235 rehabilitated.**
- In agriculture, all 47 County Governments partnered with the National Government to procure about 150,000 metric tonnes**

of fertilizer in the year 2014/5 and intend to increase this to about 200,000 metric tonnes in 2015/6.

- With developments in County Governments, there is a significant reduction of marginalization in Kenya through the equitable distribution of resources and increased access to opportunities to previously marginalized groups.
- It is imperative to remember that Governors and their Deputies are a team and were elected as a team. In a team, members work towards achieving the same goal otherwise the whole team loses the game. The Council of Governors reaffirms its resolve to work closely with the Deputies as a team. The spirit of working together should have started at campaign time and the relationship between the two leaders should be based on openness in communication. This must be nurtured and the Council of Governors will continue to support DGs and work on areas that need improvement in order to bring harmony. We urge that where there are disputes, we make consented efforts to use dialogue instead of public and media to discuss our differences.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**As we deliberate over leadership issues in our counties, we all need to be very open minded and pragmatic in our approach to tackling those issues that are hindering development and service delivery. It is only with good leadership that we will deliver the devolution promise to the citizens of Kenya.**

**On the contrary, if leadership is not well managed in the counties, it can lead to a major setback to the gains of devolution and a recipe for chaos, especially as we head towards the next elections, we have to deliver as a team. We must not allow divisions but speak with one voice.**

**Thank you and I wish you fruitful deliberations!**