



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE MAKUENI COUNTY SITUATION.

The Council of Governors is keen to respect and adhere to the Constitutional principles and provisions relating to devolution and recognizes that as elected leaders, we only hold Sovereign power on behalf of the people.

We take great exception to the recent happenings in Makueni County where five people were injured in an obvious attempt to assassinate The Governor, H.E Kivutha Kibwana. We are concerned that no arrest has been made despite several statements recorded and a letter addressed to the IG on the same. This letter has not been responded to and the culprits are still roaming freely posing further danger to the people of Makueni.

Counties exist to serve the people not themselves or the leadership. It is appalling to witness a scenario where leaders have abrogated themselves duties not conferred to them by the constitution thus putting their self interest above service to the very electorate that has put them in office.

We all know that the Makueni County budget was delayed by a whole five months because the leadership could not agree on allocation. The supplementary budget was further delayed by another two months. This was

largely unnecessary since the County already has an existing County Intergrated Development plan upon which the budget process is hinged.

Both the Executive and the Assembly should work together to prudently and justifiably allocate the resources that have already been allocated to the County; this is not about vertical sharing of revenue but merely about leaders putting their personal interests above the people's interest. These funds are for the people of Makueni, not the Executive or the Assembly.

The Council would like to state as follows on the matter:

The Council of Governors has received complaints from the Executive arm of Makueni County Government regarding the hostile environment in the county.

In light of this, the Council of Governors will call for another arbitration meeting with the County leadership but if this fails, we may be left with few options which may include request His Excellency the President Uhuru Kenyatta, to invoke the provisions of Article 192 of the Constitution which provides as follows:

That the President suspend a County Government in exceptional circumstances, in view of the allegations leveled against the County Government, an independent commission of inquiry be set up to investigate the stalemate in any County Government. This commission would work for ninety (90) days during the suspension, and if the County fails to resolve the current deadlock at the expiry of the ninety (90) days, the people of the County shall exercise their right to elect new leaders as stipulated in sub-article six (6).

We would like to re-emphasize that the ultimate consequence of invoking Article 192 is: THE BALLOT and that ALL the leaders both in the Assembly and the Executive would have to go back to the ballot.

Our sentiments are informed by the following:

1. The County Assembly has lined up four County Executive members (CECs) for impeachment- CEC Finance, CEC Agriculture and Livestock, CEC Water and Irrigation and CEC Lands and Urban Planning. The CEC Finance plays a critical role in the county budget process. The impeachment of the CEC Finance, who is the head of the County Treasury, would mean that the County grounds to a halt and that no services would be provided for the citizens of Makueni.
2. That out of a budget of Kshs 376 Million, The County Assembly of Makueni County has already utilized KES 174 million since the beginning of the financial year.

We also wish to request the County Government of Makueni, both the Executive and the Assembly, to begin to salvage the situation and put the needs of the people first. It is clear that greed has taken the place of service delivery and development and this alone, puts Devolution under heavy threat. The people of Kenya in general and the people of Makueni County in this particular instance deserve effective service delivery, which as we speak is completely stalled.

The Council is aware that there are other County Governments experiencing similar turmoil and would therefore like to alert these County Governments and bring their attention to the provisions of Article 192 of the Constitution.

In conclusion, the Council of Governors believes that the people of Kenya in general and the people of Makueni in particular deserve sober and good leadership placed above political and personal interests.

SIGNED....