COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

SPEECH BY H.E PROF KIVUTHA KIBWANA

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

AND

GOVERNOR OF MAKUENI COUNTY

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SECOND ANNUAL NCAJ-COG CONFERENCE

10TH AND 11TH MARCH 2016

ENASHIPAI RESORT AND SPA HOTEL

Excellency Governors present,
The Chief Justice, Hon. Willy Mutunga
The Attorney-General, Hon. Prof. Githu Muigai
The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Keriako Tobiko
Members of the Judiciary
Representatives of the National Police Service and Correctional Services
Representatives from the Constitutional Commissions
Representatives from Civil Society

Good Morning!

Welcome to the 2nd Annual NCAJ-COG Conference.

This Conference is a follow up to the 1st Annual NCAJ-COG conference held last year on the 3rd day of March 2016 at the Kempinski Hotel whereby the various NCAJ agencies were able to come together with the County

Governments to deliberate on the issues around their effective service delivery in the devolved system of government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year, we had very fruitful engagements during the Conference during which we made very key resolutions that would guide the initial engagements between the NCAJ Agencies.

From last year's conference, we resolved our commitment and support to the decentralization of judicial services. As a result, the Judiciary and individual County Governments have been partnering in the construction of infrastructure for the establishment of courts at the county level. Further, separate registries are being set up in the various courts that are specifically for county matters. This is all to ensure that judicial services are made accessible and justice is dispensed with in an efficient timely manner. Further, there have also been initiatives to pilot Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in various County Governments.

There has also been enhanced working relationship between County Governments and national security agencies in enhancing security through County Policing Authorities and Community Policing Committees.

Since the last conference, it is evident that there has been continued engagement of the various NCAJ agencies with the Council of Governors and the individual County Governments. This has also been actualized through the establishment of a Working Committee made up of representatives from the Council of Governors, NCAJ and key stakeholders. This working committee has so far come up with a comprehensive framework for engagement among the various NCAJ Agencies and this framework is among the key agenda items for this Conference. It is in this two day conference that we shall deliberate on ways through which we shall institutionalize decentralization, collaboration and coordination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The devolved governments face a myriad of legal challenges on a daily basis, noting that devolution is new to all implementers. We therefore need to look for ways for constructive engagement to strengthen these offices. This is through having a roadmap/implementation matrix for the actualization of this framework.

It is my hope that this forum will offer clarity on the structure of the engagement with commitment from the various NCAJ agencies in the implementation of the resolutions. It is my conviction that all the stakeholders in this room will contribute constructively to complement their activities to ensure effective delivery of services and benefit the mwananchi. As Henry Ford stated "Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success."

Thank you and God Bless!