

TALKING POINTS FOR H.E. JOHN MRUTTU, GOVERNOR FOR TAITA TAVETA ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS AT THE EAST AFRICA OIL AND GAS CONFERENCE HELD AT KICC ON 15TH- 17TH October 2014

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is an honour and it gives me great pleasure to have all of you present during this conference. I stand here on behalf of the council of Governors and particularly on behalf of the Chairman of the Council, His Excellency Hon. Isaac Ruto.

It has always been a privilege to interact with such high profile and experts men and women in the energy field, particularly the Oil and Gas sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Counties recognize that you already are or have the potential of making high capital investments in our counties and thus are a great asset to our economy and the country at large. Your activities in the counties definitely have an impact on the lives of the youth as well as the elderly and therefore the need to always have them in mind during your planning processes, they are important stakeholders.

Our Counties have huge deposits of natural resources. However, as we all know the discovery of oil and minerals as has been witnessed in other African countries has been a curse rather than a blessing to the people who live around such areas. Having learnt from these experiences we are very careful not to make mistakes that will hurt our people now and the generations to come. In this regard, through consultations and involvement of experts we are working out a well thought through policy and legislative framework that will encourage transparency and accountability in the sector thus mitigating the potential for conflict that accompanies the discovery of oil and minerals as has been witnessed in other African countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

County Governments are putting in place structures, be they legal or policies to aid investors set up their operations in the counties smoothly and successfully. There are areas or issues which may not yet be conclusively addressed which may pose challenges, but you can be sure that we are committed to doing everything possible to create an enabling environment for business in the counties.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we charter this new frontier, we recognize that a robust policy and legislative framework is essential in order to guide this capital intensive sector and create an enabling environment for investments. The need to address security concerns in the extractive areas cannot be overemphasized for various reasons, one being that the resources have been discovered in parts of the country which were historically systematically marginalized for decades and as a result the security structures were underdeveloped or did not function well.

We take this opportunity to formally invite you to our counties through our council to engage us in conversations that will translate into investment opportunities for you and economic growth and sustainable development for our people at the counties and the nation at large.

County government have various incentives to you as business partners which you will only realize if you engage us further at individual level, we are open to such conversations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This meeting could not have happened at a better time for the county governments and I believe for you too in light of the structural changes in governance in our country since the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya (2010)

It is a learning opportunity for you on how you should engage the two levels of governments in your planning and before you undertake any investments in the country especially with regards to the devolved functions.

Thank you!