

ADDRESS BY H.E GOVERNOR DR. JULIUS MALOMBE, CHAIRMAN, URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, DURING THE SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON THE AMENDMENT OF UACA ACT 2011, HELD ON 3RD TO 5TH DECEMBER 2014 HELD AT MAANZONI LODGE

Good Morning

I thank you for finding time within your busy schedules to attend this meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Background of County Governments,

Back in 2010 Kenyans voted in a new constitution which ushered in a new governance and leadership system. In doing so we laid out the challenge that I believe define our work; we strengthened our foundation as we look into the future. I believe that devolution presents a unique stage for this country to reap greater dividend from robust and prosperous urban centers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 sets the stage for the current urban governance through the Articles 174, 176 and 184, by enshrining the principle of devolution to the County level and allowing further decentralization to the lowest level possible for effective delivery of services. Correspondingly, various Acts of Parliament such as the Transition to Devolved Government Act (2012), County Government Act (2012) and the Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011) set criteria for the transfer of functions to the County and Urban levels.

The Constitution and various acts of parliament confer to the National Government the following mandates in regards to urban areas:

- Development and oversight in implementation of policies
- Development of regulations and standards for national urban development
- Capacity building for Counties on urban issues
- Allocation of grants and external borrowing.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may be all aware, the Urban Areas and Cities Act, give the Counties a direct role in management of urban areas. These include:

- Conferment of Municipality and town status on urban areas within the County;
- Establishment of Urban Boards, appointment of Urban Managers and establishment of Citizens Fora as provided for in Part 3 of Urban Areas and Cities Act;
- Oversight for Service Delivery by Boards, including establishment of joint ventures and public Private partnerships;
- Approval for the urban integrated development plans; and
- Allocation of funds to the urban areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your presence here is a testimony of the commitment you have towards shaping our urban agenda to realize the promise it holds in making our devolved states highly competitive regions.

I thank you all for choosing to participate in this meeting with the aim of reviewing the proposed amendments to the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011 of course in an attempt to better it to meet our aspirations for the counties and to chart a way of accelerating urbanization and development processes within our counties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have ambitious plans to develop our regions by funding improvements and additions to existing infrastructure. We are already considering PPP model for roads across the Counties. We need to work towards building the future we want and deserve, by embracing bold ideas and by conquering challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We welcome you to join us in dreaming big and planning wisely to achieve our vision. We know that to succeed, Devolution need strong and true friends.

I wish you all the best even as we make the best of this workshop. God bless you all.

Thank you.