

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS FOR THE CIVIC EDUCATION TRAINING MANUAL VALIDATION
FORUM, MAANZONI LODGE, 1ST-2ND DECEMBER 2014**

***Ministry of Devolution Representatives,
Transition Authority Representatives,
County Assembly Forum Representatives,
Uraia Trust,
UNDP,
Distinguished Guests,***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address you today as stakeholders who have donated time and resources to spearhead this process that will see the eventual implementation of civic education programmes in our forty seven (47) counties. The drafters of our Constitution were very unequivocal when they zealously recognized in Article 1 (1) that sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya. They went ahead in Article 10 to entrench national values and principles of governance, which are among others, participation of the people, inclusiveness, good governance, transparency and accountability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Notwithstanding these progressive provisions, we must ask ourselves this critical question: how can the mwananchi fully and actively participate in governance affairs when they lack knowledge, understanding and ownership of the Constitution? One of the objects of the devolved governments is to enhance participation of the people. Yet this object may not be optimally realized unless we have an educated citizenry that can meaningfully engage with its leaders and also competently interrogate the actions of its leaders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this regard, as the Council of Governors, we are keen to ensure that Part X (ten) of the County Governments Act on Civic Education is implemented in all forty-seven (47) counties. As a body whose mandate is to promote best practice and initiate corrective action, we note the importance of equipping the citizenry with proper understanding of the structures of governance and that for this to be achieved, there is need for civic education to be aggressively

pursued, for both the implementers in the County Governments (supply side) and the beneficiaries, that is the people (demand side).

We are aware, and we are in full support of Section 99 of the County Governments Act which espouses the objectives of civic education as follows:

1. sustained citizens' engagement in the implementation of the Constitution;
2. improved understanding, appreciation and engagement in the operationalization of the county system of government;
3. institutionalizing a culture of constitutionalism;
4. knowledge of Kenya's transformed political system, context and implications;
5. enhanced knowledge and understanding of electoral system and procedures;
6. enhanced awareness and mainstreaming of the Bill of Rights and National values;
7. heightened demand by citizens for service delivery by institutions of governance at the county level;
8. ownership and knowledge on the principal economic, social and political issues facing county administrations and their form, structures and procedures; and
9. appreciation for the diversity of Kenya's communities as building blocks for national cohesion and integration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At Section 100, the County Governments Act obligates every county to implement a civic education programme and establish a civic education unit. Further at Section 101 of the same Act, every county is expected to enact legislation to provide for an institutional framework to facilitate and implement civic education programmes. It is therefore not optional for County Governments to establish mechanisms that ensure the citizens are continually capacitated with knowledge that allows them to find a place and a voice in existing political, economic and social structures.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to applaud the efforts and sacrifices of the stakeholders in this room who began this initiative and who have consistently supported the development of the Civic Education Curriculum and now the Civic Education Training Manual. I note with gratitude the contributions into this process of the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, the Transition

Authority, Uraia Trust and UNDP who are all passionate to see effective delivery of civic education in the counties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, I note that many counties will need your assistance in establishing and rolling out civic education programmes. This is just the beginning. County Governments will need your competence and guidance as they begin to set up structures for undertaking civic education.

I wish to thank you again for your support to the counties and officially declare this workshop open.

May you have fruitful deliberations as you keep in mind that devolution was the choice of the people, by the people and for the people.

Thank you.