

ADDRESS BY H.E GOVERNOR DR. DAVID K. OLE NKEDIANYE, ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS DURING A COG MEETING WITH U.S BUSINESS DELEGATION, HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2014 AT SERENA HOTEL,

Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta,

H.E the Governors,

Distinguished delegates,

County Executives present,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

I thank you for finding time within your busy schedules to attend this meeting as we share on the various investment opportunities available within our Counties.

Ladies and gentlemen

Public and private investment is critical for growth of county economies. These partnerships will promote growth directly and indirectly by providing various public goods such as infrastructure and social services. This will create an enabling environment where risks, barriers and costs to investment are minimized.

Many Counties are endowed with vast resources that need to be explored further. If properly tapped the resources can provide opportunities for businesses with very high returns.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Local fairness must be secured through a strategy of equality, democracy and inclusiveness at all times. I say this because throughout our dynamic relationship, USA has unfailingly demonstrated the possibility and success of cooperation based on mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

To this, we have chosen to participate in this meeting with the aim of opening new business accounts; creating and developing our relationship with new and resident investors; listening to the needs of the business partners; sharing the good news, and providing visibility for the devolved governments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Why Counties?

We note that though many investors are ready to invest and take advantage of the new opportunities at County level, they do not know where to start. To address this, we have initiated an aggressive outreach to inform the potential investors of the available investment

vehicles. Recently, Kericho County held an investment forum where different opportunities were explored. As I speak, the Bomet County is hosting an investment forum in partnership with local and international investors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In keeping with our shared vision of a prosperity underpinned by security, and despite the ongoing threats, the situation is meant to improve significantly. To consolidate local security, we await the gazetement of regulations to enhance security in the Counties through Community Policing Initiatives.

As Counties, we are working to ensure that the tax systems are friendly, competitive investment initiatives are in place and simplified investment procedures.

At this juncture, I invite you to explore investments in the energy, ICT, security, roads and transportation, health, agribusiness, finance, education, local tourism as well as film industry sectors should continue to form part of our main objectives in the near-term.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have ambitious plans to develop our Country by funding improvements in addition to existing infrastructure. We are already considering PPP model for roads and health across the Counties. Notably, additional infrastructure, which requires heavy investment and injection of huge sums of money, is needed to ease movement of goods and people.

We are considering issuing of “County Bonds” to support development agenda and, should this materialize, it will be another opportunity for investment that we can all explore.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To effectively engage our business and investment partners, Counties are in the process of hosting interactive websites with an efficient customer care desk.

We are adopting the use of technology as a key to the success. To this, many Counties are already using virtual support to harness investment opportunities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is worth noting that the regulatory environment is progressively improving with time. Counties are learning fast about which laws, regulations and procedures work and which do not.

Even more, we are strengthening the way we interact with businesses – investing to build a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation. Our goal is to help the brilliant entrepreneurs turn their ideas into great companies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our vision is to create the best conditions possible for the private sector to grow and thrive, and create the ecosystems that will nurture and accelerate growth. That's the mission of our economic development strategies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will agree that we have so much to be proud of in the Counties: during the few months, we have become branded as 'New Investment Frontiers' and a 'hotbed of new ideas' featuring the most vibrant local economies and we stand poised for future success. Together, we can build the future we want and deserve, by embracing bold ideas and conquering challenges.

In the spirit of shared prosperity and friendship, I wish to assure our investors of our desire to continue cooperating closely with you and build strong and strategic partnerships.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

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