

THE COUNCIL



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

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COG, AMREF INK KSH257 MILLION PACT TO ENHANCE PROVISION OF PRIMARY HEALTHCARE AT THE COUNTY LEVEL OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD

The Council of Governors (CoG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) to scale up primary healthcare in the grassroots in a bid to support national efforts towards the attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The KES257 million (USD 2,235,000) partnership covering a four-year period was agreed on during a meeting led by CoG Chairperson, H.E Hon. Martin Wambora on 21st March 2022. The MoU seeks to strengthen health systems for Primary Health Care (PHC) by offering support for coordination of functions including policy and legislative analysis, as well as proposals and strategies aimed at improving health systems and service delivery at the County level.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, H.E Wambora reiterated that the partnership formalizes and deepens the relationship between AMREF Health Africa and the Council of Governors. Through the partnership, the two organizations will work towards strengthening health financing components within Counties and enhance community health services.

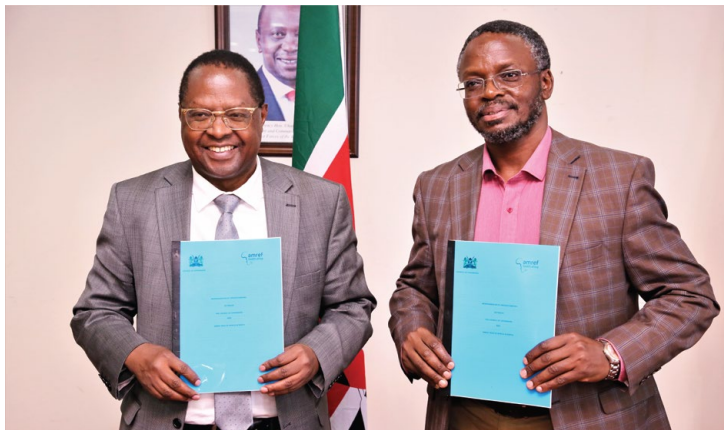
Key priority areas include: ring-fencing health funds through Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) to enhance domestic resource mobilization as well as efficiency in resource use; quality improvement in services delivery across public health facilities; strengthening the community health workforce through domestic funding; and the establishment of a sustained framework for resource mobilization and allocation.

Nine (9) years into devolution in Kenya, Counties have achieved significant milestones in healthcare delivery. County Governments have laid a solid foundation towards attainment of Universal Health Care through health infrastructural development and investment towards adequate human resource. By placing the focus on sustainable funding for health facilities and how to improve productivity and overall effectiveness of the community health workforce, the COG - AMREF partnership will build on these gains towards the attainment of UHC.

Despite the strides made since 2013 in the health sector, the community health space remains poorly financed, disjointed and a weak link in the country's health system. Financing of health services is also another challenge. These teething problems have largely been attributed to the lack of a legislative framework to guide resource mobilization and allocation as well as enable coordinated and sustainable implementation of the community health services.

Community Health Services have been linked to both improved health outcomes and improved cost-effectiveness in the health system. By reducing the number of people who have to seek services from higher-level health facilities, community health services facilitate the

effective implementation of primary healthcare in the Country. The MOU now goes into the implementation phase.



NEWS INSIDE

- COG, AMREF INK KSH257 MILLION PACT TO ENHANCE PROVISION OF PRIMARY HEALTHCARE AT THE COUNTY LEVEL OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD
- COG CONVENES WORKSHOP WITH COUNTY SECRETARIES AND COUNTY ATTORNEYS ON TRANSITION
- HOUSE SPEAKER URGES ENHANCED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO PROMOTE REALIZATION OF SDGS IN KENYA
- COG, NATIONAL LANDS MINISTRY AND FAO TO ROLL OUT SH2.7BN EU-FUNDED LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM IN APRIL
- KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH

COG CONVENES WORKSHOP WITH COUNTY SECRETARIES AND COUNTY ATTORNEYS ON TRANSITION

The Council of Governors (CoG) held a three - day sensitization workshop with County Secretaries and County Attorneys on the preparations for transition in the Counties and assumption to office of Governors, from 14th – 16th March 2022 at Merica Hotel in Nakuru County. This comes even as the country gears towards marking the end of the second generation County Governments in the upcoming 2022 general elections to be held on 9th August.

In view of the Council's mandate as embedded in section 20 of the IGRA Act, the meeting sought to equip the County Secretaries and the County Attorneys with skills and knowledge that would be instrumental in facilitating a smooth transition of power and ensuring uninterrupted service delivery to Kenyans. Further, it highlighted the Assumption of Office of the Governor Act of 2019 and provided an opportunity for County Governments to share experiences on all matters transition including: change management and handover processes; conflict management; and management of assets and liabilities.

Speaking during the official opening Council of Governors CEO, Ms. Mary Mwiti noted the critical role the transition plays in shaping the Kenya's political and socio-economic agenda as well as laying the foundation for a peaceful and prosperous regime.

"Stability during a transition depends on the technocrats' level of preparedness in guiding outgoing officials and inaugurating incoming administration," said Ms. Mary Mwiti.

The Assumption of Office of the Governor Act, 2019 guides on the procedure and ceremony for the assumption of office for the Governor and Deputy elect. The Act further provides for establishment of an ad-hoc Committee chaired by the County Secretary in each County to oversee and guide the transition from one government to the other.

"The Assumption of Office of the Governor Act is crucial in ensuring a seamless transition come August 2022," noted Mr. Caleb Nyamwange - Chair, County Attorneys Forum while imploring all Counties to ensure full operationalization of the Office of the County Attorney Act.

"This will seal any litigation loopholes that may derail efforts towards a successful transition," he added.

County Secretaries and County Attorneys who have been at the center of a transition from one Governor to another shared their real and practical experiences with the aim of preparing their colleagues on what to expect in the transition period. Counties that have changed leadership due to the creation of vacancy in the office of the Governor include: Kiambu, Kajiado, Bomet, Makueni, Nyeri, Kisii, Kakamega, Kirinyaga and most recently, Wajir.

Mr. Patrick Mukuria – Vice Chair, County Secretary Caucus commended the CoG for organizing such a forum and called for collaboration and cooperation between National and County Governments for successful and stable service delivery in the Counties during the transition.

As the County Governments prepare for the change in administration, they are likely to grapple with accumulated pending bills. Some Counties have inherited pending bills from the defunct local authorities, others from the first generation County Governments while others have been accrued since 2017. It was agreed that incoming County Governments prioritize pending bills and that all Counties develop and implement a clear pending bills payment plan for improved service delivery to

the common 'mwananchi'.

In light of the change of guard expected in the country after the 2022 general elections, the CoG will execute an extensive induction program for the County leadership in order to equip newly elected and appointed County leaders with knowledge on the systems, structures and processes for managing County Governments. The CoG calls upon all stakeholders to work together pre, during and post the transition in August 2022 and further urges all political leaders to maintain sobriety and peace during this electioneering period.



HOUSE SPEAKER URGES ENHANCED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO PROMOTE REALIZATION OF SDGs IN KENYA

National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi has called for increased participation of the public especially the youth to secure the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya.

Speaking during the People Dialogue Festival 2022 held from 9th to 11th March 2022 at the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi, Speaker Muturi underscored the importance of actively involving the youth in government programmes and decision-making noting that public engagement is the hallmark of democratic societies. He reiterated the importance of citizens holding government accountable, further stating how critical it is for marginalized and minority groups, women, the youth and persons with disabilities to also be intentionally accommodated in public participation initiatives.

“This has to be implemented to ensure principles such as the two-thirds gender rule and five percent representation of people living with disabilities, are realized,” he added.

Speaker Muturi noted that the implementation of SDGs in Kenya is well anchored in the country’s long-term development blueprint, the Vision 2030 and more importantly, the 2010 Constitution, which contains a strong Bill of Rights, and national values and principles that are key drivers of the commitment towards Agenda 2030.

The People Dialogue Festival, aimed at promoting meaningful and active engagement of citizens in good governance, accountability and transparency, brought together the Council of Governors (CoG), County Assemblies Forum (CAF), Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), the SDGs Kenya forum, Royal Danish Embassy and other development partners, political parties and politicians as well as citizens from all parts of the country. It featured rich conversations and interactive discussions on matters governance, the political party expo and festival performances. The ‘SDG village’, a first of its kind, gave stakeholders in the public and private sector a chance to share their contributions towards achievement of the SDGs in Kenya.

In a panel session on ‘Domesticating SDGs implementation in the context of devolution in Kenya’ organized by the Council of Governors in collaboration with the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), Counties were urged to strengthen SDGs coordination mechanisms by establishing SDGs units to fast-track the achievement of SDGs’ targets at the sub-national level and eliminate existing regional disparities.

“While we do commend Counties for mainstreaming SDGs in their County Integrated Development plans (CIDPs), there is need for more targeted interventions and strategies to ease implementation of SDGs,” said Hon. Chege Mwaura, MCA Ngara Wards, Nairobi.

The event resolved that County Governments should put in place measures that guarantee accountability in the use of public resources and that they should adopt peer review mechanisms to facilitate learning and sharing of best practices amongst themselves. County Assemblies were urged to embrace equity in budgetary allocations so that socio-economic development is experienced in all wards across the Counties.

The presence of private sector players in the event confirmed their crucial role in accelerating the implementation of SDGs. Mr. Sylvester Makaka- a senior energy advisor at the KAM, called upon both National and County Governments to create an enabling business environment for private sector actors to thrive and effectively contribute to the

implementation of Agenda 2030.

“All state and non- state actors should collaborate and leverage on the combined synergies to address some of the challenges faced in implementation of SDGs, one of them being financing. Partnerships will also go a long way in translating the SDGs targets into action,” he stated.

Ms. Kirsten Brosbol, former MP and Minister for environment in Denmark, highlighted the need to rally the efforts of all stakeholders behind implementation of SDGs for the benefit of all Kenyans, including communities at the grass roots level.

“If development in Kenya is to be sustainable and truly responsive to people’s needs, the people themselves must be involved in the process, have access to information and collectively formulate real solutions to the issues that hinder their development,” she added.

The Council remains committed to supporting County Governments in their quest to achieve equitable sustainable development to enable all Kenyans live a higher quality of life.



COG, NATIONAL LANDS MINISTRY AND FAO TO ROLL OUT SH2.7BN EU-FUNDED LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM IN APRIL

The Council of Governors (GoG), the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning (MoLPP), and the National Land Commission (NLC) are set to roll out a FAO-led Land Governance Programme in April with the aim of enhancing efficient and effective land governance through the digitization of land records and processes.

The Land Governance Programme funded by the European Union to the tune of €20,848,805 (Sh2.7bn) also seeks to improve conflict and dispute resolution mechanisms on land and natural resources and strengthen the policy, legal and institutional frameworks for land governance.

The five-year project initiated by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) will run from April 1, 2022 to March 30, 2027.

Speaking during the launch, Lands Cabinet Secretary, Ms. Farida Karoney lauded the enormous contribution by FAO/EU towards the digitization of land records. The CS noted that the digitization programme has been successful owing to the robust collaboration between the Ministry, National Land Commission (NLC), Judiciary, County Governments, NGOs and other stakeholders in the land sector.

The Digital Land Governance Programme was secured to support all the 47 Counties in improving food and nutrition security, livelihoods and sustainable development in Kenya through equitable and secure access and management of land as per Vision 2030.

The key outcome of the programme themed; ‘Support to the Attainment of Vision 2030 through Devolved Land Reforms in Community Lands of Kenya’ is meant to strengthen security of tenure and equitable access to land and natural resources for enhancement of livelihoods and sustainable socioeconomic development. The programme was previously supporting 9 Counties which were predominantly ASAL.

The COG Chairman, H.E Martin Wambora noted, ‘Land ownership remains a politically sensitive and culturally complex issue in Kenya. Since independence, it has been characterized by disputes over ownership, security of tenure and use’. He added that, ‘Just like in many nations, land is a capital resource and factor of production. It sustains many livelihoods as a means for income generation, food security and guarantor of other economic undertakings’.

The project outputs, include; improved land management and administration in the Counties (including securing community land tenure), promotion and establishment of participatory land-use planning methodologies, improved policy and legal framework through the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries & Forests (VGGT) and strengthening the capacity of research institutions on land tenure and management issues.

Despite the efforts put in place in the first phase of the programme, management and use of land continue to face myriad of challenges ranging from 68% of Kenyans being without land documentation or tenure security, inefficient land transaction processes and high costs associated with land transactions. Further, socio-economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19, corruption in the land sector, poor land use planning & management and prolonged access to justice processes have continued to derail land reforms in the country. The Land Governance program is expected to accelerate intended policy, legal and institutional reforms in the lands sector.

In this regard, the Council of Governors has prioritized the following areas

under the programme; Provide technical support to County Governments through capacity building and training on Physical and Land Use Development Planning processes, Support Counties in establishment of GIS Labs, Facilitate the formation and training of Community Land Management Committees, Support the development and review of valuation roles, Facilitating training and capacity building of County Climate change units, Facilitating the development of model laws on natural resource management, Support the maintenance of the devolution forest in Makueni County, Train women on land tenure and property rights.



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KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



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48 GOVERNMENTS,
1 NATION



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