



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

ADDRESS BY H.E JOSPHAT KOLI NANOK, CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS.

**FRONTIER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CONFERENCE FROM
10TH – 12TH JULY, 2018 AT NAIVASHA KENYA**

***Excellency Governors,
Honorable members present,
Distinguished Guests***

Good afternoon

H.E President Kenyatta's Big Four initiative among which include offering universal health care, and strengthening food and nutrition security are an important step forward in Kenya's drive for greater prosperity. Aligned to these efforts is the Kenya's vision 2030 which aims to transform key social sectors.

Ladies and gentlemen

We know that to achieve Kenya's vision 2030, and indeed to achieve the Big Four priorities of H.E. President Kenyatta, Economic growth rates alone **cannot** result in improved social nor economic wellbeing of the most vulnerable – we know that so far the current growth rate has not been inclusive, because it is not changing the lives of the **mwananchi**. Even with growth rates, currently at 5.5% and expected to peak at an impressive 6.2% by 2021, this will not be enough to bring about the socio - economic changes that we aspire. We must ensure that urgent measures are in place to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition. We in Kenya, and the world through SDG2, recognize the importance of nutrition in development. We recognize that even if we achieve good economic growth, this is nothing, if it does not translate into human development and good health for the majority of the population.

Ladies and gentlemen

In ASAL region for example, the high rates of malnutrition are holding us back. Children do not grow to their full potential. Indeed, various studies undertaken in the continent such as the “*Cost of Hunger in Africa*” suggests that not investing in child nutrition can hinder economic development. For example, an increase in stunting rates (where children fail to grow in line with age) represents a serious concern to a country's and county's development, given that impacts of stunting are irreversible and associated with impaired cognitive abilities, school repetitions and reduced school performance, and as a consequence, in adulthood children that were stunting at working age, are less productive both in manual and non-manual activities. This reduced productivity and inability to achieve the full potential of its population can exert a heavy toll on the economy, which can now be quantified as a loss to the economy. I am made to understand that the Kenyan Government will soon be undertaking the African Union's study referred to as the *Cost of Hunger in Africa* – which will build much needed evidence for us to quantify what we as an economy are losing by not tackling malnutrition at a young age.

Ladies and gentlemen

Malnutrition rates in the Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties, have been the challenge in the country. Additionally, recent drought and flood conditions have led to a decline in school attendance, participation and rising dropout rates. Have we tried to investigate why this is the case, and what this is costing us as a nation?

Ladies and gentlemen

As Chair of the Council of Governors some of the measures that i have put in place to curb the challenges of ASAL Counties is the strengthening of the ASAL Committee within the Secretariat for the year 2018-2019. We have transformed this Committee from an Adhoc into a substantive one. This will serve as a department within the secretariat and will deal with matters arising relevant to ASAL in conjunction with the 29 ASAL Counties.

Ladies and gentlemen

For the FCDC, to be able to bring about accelerated socio-economic development to the ASAL Counties, we need to ensure that programmes implemented leave no-one behind, as such we need to understand what the underlying causes are of the increasing food and nutrition insecurity. We need to make sure that decisions and policies we make are well grounded in research and evidence.

Ladies and gentlemen

To conclude I am informed that we are in the preparations of an ASAL Conference that is scheduled on 5th to 8th September, 2018. The theme is “**Unlocking the Potential of ASALs for Accelerated National Development**” and is planned by Ministry of Devolution and ASAL in conjunction with the ASAL Committee of the Council of Governors. We are welcoming all relevant ASAL stakeholders to be part and parcel for the preparations of the success for this conference.

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

God bless you all.

Thank you

H.E Josphat Koli Nanok

Chairman, Council of Governors