



**REMARKS BY H.E. HON. FCPA WYCLIFFE AMBETSA OPARANYA,
DURING THE LUNCHEON OF 14TH JANUARY, 2019 MOVENPICK,
NAIROBI**

Excellency Governors present,

Speaker of the Senate,

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and ASAL,

The Chief Justice and the President of the Supreme Court,

Honorable Senators,

High Commissioners and Ambassadors,

Development Partners

Representatives from the Private Sector,

Distinguished Guests,

The Council of Governors took to the polls today to elect the new executive team that will lead the Council for the next one year. Allow me to sincerely thank my fellow governors for bestowing on me this great responsibility to steer the Council moving forward. I would like to thank my predecessor H.E. Josphat Nanok and his team for the strides and leadership they have brought to the Council of Governors over the past one year. Your leadership, your excellences, has brought

us this far and I must mention that it is one of the most sacrificial and dedicated leadership that I have seen.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I take up the mantle of the Council, I have prioritized a number of sticking issues that in consultation with my colleagues I will spend time, energy and commitment to realize and actualize the purpose of which the Council was formed. A few of them are;

1. We have to strengthen devolution through collaboration, consultation and cooperation. It may require that we engage the Nation Government, partners and ordinary citizen to realize the objects of devolution.
2. Timely disbursement of funds to the Counties.
3. We have to strengthen the Council of Governors Secretariat as a delivery vehicle of the objectives of the Council.
4. We have to reshape the referendum National Agenda in the Context of Devolution. The Council will purposely endeavor to drive the referendum discussion by engaging stakeholders.

I am also taking over at a time when E-Procurement s becoming a bottleneck to the County Governments, as such we have faced numerous challenges in procurement. This is largely hindering the delivery of services in the County Governments and the pension scheme for Governors as agreed in the previous summit is yet to be actualized.

I will take it upon myself to expedite the process to ensure that the issues are addressed to the satisfaction of the County Governments. I want to take this early opportunity to give notice to the Treasury that it will not be business as usual especially when it comes to the flow of funds to the Counties.

My plea ladies and gentlemen is to all institutions and people involved in delivering devolution to reflect on the real intent and purpose of which the Constitution of Kenya 2010 is called a devolution document. Let us thrive to give devolution a chance that it deserves.

Once again I am honoured be the Council of Governors Chairman and I urge that we work hand in hand to realize the Devolution dream.

Thank You.

H.E. Hon. FCPA. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya EGH, CGJ
Chairman, Council of Governors