



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

TALKING POINTS FOR H.E. HON JOSPHAT NANOK,

CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

**DURING A CONSULTATIVE MEETING PROVIDING UPDATES ON CRITICAL
PRIORITY PROGRAMS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
IRRIGATION**

11TH MAY 2018

- ❖ ***My Fellow Excellency Governors present,***
- ❖ ***The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation- Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri,***
- ❖ ***The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives - Mr. Adan Mohammed,***
- ❖ ***The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology - Mr. Joe Mucheru***
- ❖ ***County Executives in charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries,***
- ❖ ***County Executives in charge of Information Communication & Technology***

- ❖ ***Distinguished Participants,***
- ❖ ***Ladies and Gentlemen,***
- ❖ ***Good Morning!***

1. Let me first and foremost, register my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for convening this consultative meeting to discuss the implementation framework for critical priority projects by the National Government under the Big Four Agenda. The great turnout by my fellow Governors and county officials is evidence of our commitment as Counties to achieve the Big Four Agenda, particularly on achieving 100% food and nutrition security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. The Council of Governors in partnership with the Ministry of Devolution and ASAL, the Senate, the County Assemblies Forum and other stakeholders

successfully hosted the 5th Annual Devolution Conference from 23rd to 27th April 2018 in Kakamega County. In line with the President's Big Four Agenda, agriculture was one of the sectors given prominence and attention at the Conference. Following the discussions, the key issues resolved under agriculture sub-sector were that:

- Both levels of government need to jointly formulate a harmonized framework for coordination, resource mobilization and funds flow to implement key national priority interventions; and
- The National and County Governments need to collaborate in enhancing production efficiency, strengthening farmer extension, and adopting smart technologies.

I would like to appreciate the Chair of the Council of Governors Agriculture Committee, H.E. Okoth Obado together with the Cabinet Secretaries in

charge of Agriculture, ICT and Trade for fast-tracking the implementation of these Conference resolutions by convening this meeting today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Our responsibility as government is to ensure that farmers and other value chain players get the most efficient enabling environment to support their economic growth. This will mean that farmers move away from rain fed agriculture to produce cost effectively. We need to ensure that we assist farmers in the adoption modern crop, livestock and fish farming practices that are resilient to the changing weather patterns that are currently being experienced across the country, to avoid alarm and despondency.

As they produce, their products should also easily access the local and international markets. Kenya will never be prosperous, it never has been and never will be prosperous by selling to ourselves. Therefore, we must ensure that we have got the appropriate value addition mechanisms, infrastructure networks across the country and international networks for this to be achieved.

4. The initiative aimed at registering farmers across the country is also critical in achieving food security. For many years we have concentrated on explaining the external factors contributing to the crisis in the agriculture industry but we have not focused on the internal factors causing the crisis. In order to get to the root cause and cure to any crisis, you have to get to down to the bottom of the problem and do a complete analysis of the whole range of causes to the crisis. The information generated shall be crucial in

ensuring evidence-based interventions that give farmers the support they need at the grass-root level.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. In the President's address during the Conference, he also highlighted the need to decentralize Huduma Centre services to all County Governments and ensure they provide space for county related services. Currently, County Governments have not been left behind in embracing rapidly evolving technologies to enhance service delivery including adopting IFMIS, the Smart County Project and other automation services like eJiji Pay in Nairobi. The current drive to decentralize and provide county services at Huduma Centres is therefore a welcome move. If adopted effectively, it can play an

important role in fighting corruption in systems, by promoting greater comprehensiveness and transparency of information across government institutions.

6. However, in light of this current technological boom, we need to be aware that automating government services may exacerbate various governance, security, legal, and operational risks. While the efficiency of electronic means of providing services is valued, the basic tenet of automating services should ensure that security and safety still remains. In addition, to ensure that these systems are operational and effective, specific capacity enhancement programmes need to be developed for the County Governments that will promote the efficient application of these systems.

In conclusion,

7. We owe it to ourselves, our people and to this nation collaborate to ensure full realization and implementation of these critical national and county programs. As we rise up to this challenge, let us please remember that this is not a moment to be insular, partisan or jaundiced about our own interests but we need to be driven by the best interests of all Kenyans. Therefore, the real worth of this meeting will be in coming up with workable solutions that redeem the agriculture, trade and ICT sectors. Let us therefore consult candidly on pragmatic solutions that are responsive to the needs of the people we serve.

8. Thank you and I wish you fruitful deliberations!