

THE COUNCIL MONTHLY



Governors led by CoG Chair H.E FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi during a press briefing after a full council meeting

GOVERNORS CALL FOR ADEQUATE RESOURCING OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO ADDRESS KEY ISSUES IN HEALTH AND SERVICE DELIVERY



CoG Chair H.E FCPA. Ahmed Abdullahi speaking during the full council meeting

The Council of Governors (CoG) convened a full Council meeting on 19th May 2025, at the CoG offices in Nairobi, to deliberate on critical issues affecting County Governments with a key focus on resource allocation, legislative reforms and intergovernmental relations.

Governors highlighted the need to unlock the stalemate over the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025, adding that the proposed equitable share allocation of ksh. 405 billion does not account for rising non-discretionary costs and the financial burden of the newly delineated functions.

“As a Council, we have proposed an equitable share of ksh. 536.88 billion in the next FY to ensure that Counties can effectively execute their mandate and deliver services to the Kenyan people. Additionally, we urge the National Treasury to clear all outstanding arrears and ensure timely disbursements of equitable share of revenue to County Governments,” noted the CoG Chair H.E FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi.

He further called upon the National Treasury to expedite the release of the additional allocations, following the recent enactment of the County Governments Additional Allocations Act, 2025. As at 27th May 2025, the Treasury had disbursed April allocations to all 47 Counties with arrears amounting to ksh. 32.93 billion to 47 Counties for May 2025 allocations.

On matters health, Governors led by the Health Committee Chair Muthomi Njuki emphasized the need to address the challenges facing Kenya’s Health sector, particularly in relation to human resources for health.

NEWS INSIDE

1

GOVERNORS CALL FOR ADEQUATE RESOURCING OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO ADDRESS KEY ISSUES IN HEALTH AND SERVICE DELIVERY

2

GOVERNORS, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS COMMIT TO STRENGTHEN DEVOLUTION THROUGH KDSP II

3

COUNTIES, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COMMIT TO STRENGTHEN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS TO ENHANCE THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

4

COUNTY COMMUNICATION LEADERS CHART NEW COURSE FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION ON DEVOLUTION

5

UGATUZI CORNER

6

KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH

This follows the recent protests by UHC workers in Nairobi where they faulted the government for failing to meet their obligations, including providing permanent and pensionable terms of employment and payment of gratuity.

“There was a proposal by the National Government to transfer payroll responsibilities for 8,571 UHC medical workers to County Governments. However, this is not feasible as Counties do not have sufficient funds to pay the healthcare workers,” said the Health Committee the Council would continue to engage the Health to resolve the issue of the transitioning of

“As a Council, we have proposed an equitable share of ksh. 536.88 billion in the next FY to ensure that Counties can effectively execute their mandate and deliver services to the Kenyan people. ”

H.E FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, EGH

Chair adding that Ministry of UHC staff.

In the same breadth, the Governors urged the Ministry of Health to desist from encroaching on Counties’ mandates under the Building Resilient and Responsive Health Systems (BREHS) project, noting that any attempts to centralize implementation of critical components to be undertaken by County Governments is an affront to Devolution.



H.E. Muthomi Njuki (Right) and CoG CEO Mary Mwiti (Left) during the full council meeting



CoG Vice Chair H.E Dr. Mutahi Kahiga speaking during the full council meeting

In line with its mandate as stipulated in section 19 of the IGRA, 2012, the CoG Chair announced that the Council has initiated the establishment of the Kenya Devolution Institute (KDI) – an innovation and training hub that seeks to enhance leadership capacity and professionalism, promote intergovernmental collaboration, support peer to peer learning and institutionalize knowledge sharing on decentralization and local government. The KDI is envisioned to serve as a one stop shop for all matters Devolution in Kenya.

Addressing members of the press after the meeting, the CoG Vice Chair and Chair of the Devolution Conference Steering Committee announced that preparations were on course for the upcoming Devolution Conference 2025 to be held in Homa Bay County from 12th – 15th August 2025.

“I urge all stakeholders in the Devolution space and members of the public to register for the Conference. Let us jointly shape the future of Devolution in Kenya,” noted H.E Kahiga.

To register for the Conference, visit www.devolutionconference.com

GOVERNORS, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS COMMIT TO STRENGTHEN DEVOLUTION THROUGH KDSP II

Governors from across the country, senior national government officials, and development partners convened in Naivasha on 27th May, 2025 for the official launch and sensitization workshop of the Second Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP II), marking a renewed commitment to strengthening County systems, governance, and citizen-centered service delivery.

The sensitization was graced and opened by H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, Chairperson of the Council of Governors, who underscored the importance of KDSP II in reinforcing the gains of devolution. “This workshop is a vital platform for dialogue, learning, and alignment as we collectively work towards deepening devolution and improving service delivery across our 47 counties,” he stated.

KDSP II is built on four key pillars: strengthening financing and expenditure management, addressing human resource challenges, institutionalizing performance management, and enhancing public participation and accountability. “These four areas are interlinked and foundational to delivering the promise of devolution,” H.E. Ahmed added. He further emphasized the need for fiscal discipline, robust human resource systems, and transparent performance tracking, asserting, “We must ensure that our counties have competent, motivated, and well-managed human resources to deliver on their mandates.”



CoG Chair H.E FCPA. Ahmed Abdullahi speaking during the official launch and sensitization workshop of the Second Kenya Devolution Support Program



www.cog.go.ke



@KenyaGovernors



Council of Governors-Kenya

Speaking at the same forum, CoG Vice Chair, made a strong call for recognition of the Council as a key stakeholder in the implementation of devolved sector World Bank-funded programs. “The Council of Governors Secretariat remains the official channel of communication for all initiatives being implemented at County Governments. Every World Bank program on devolved functions needs to consider the Council as an implementing partner and allocate resources accordingly,” he affirmed.

Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, applauded the collaborative approach taken in the design of KDSP II. “This gathering marks yet another milestone in our collective journey toward strengthening devolution, reinforcing the systems that anchor it, and ensuring that every Kenyan - regardless of location - enjoys the benefits of effective, accountable, and responsive governance,” he said.

Dr. Kahiga highlighted that the success of KDSP II would be measured by the impact at the grassroots. “This program’s success depends entirely on how we provide support. As Governors, we must translate this support into impact — into better financial discipline, better staff management, better service delivery, and greater public trust in our work,” he stated.

Representing the National Government, the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Devolution, Mr. Michael Lenasalon, reaffirmed the National Government’s support for the program. “KDSP II is the product of extensive consultations involving the National Government, the World Bank, the 47 County Governments and various Ministries. It is about ensuring devolution works not just in theory, but in practice,” he noted.

PS Lenasalon emphasized the importance of unbundling functions and aligning resources to those functions, revealing that the government is on track to fully implement the presidential directive on the unbundling of functions by July 2025. He further noted that KDSP II would enhance local revenue mobilization, citizen participation, and accountability mechanisms.

“**This program’s success depends entirely on how we provide support. As Governors, we must translate this support into impact — into better financial discipline, better staff management, better service delivery, and greater public trust in our work**”
H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, EGH



CoG Vice Chair H.E Dr. Mutahi Kahiga speaking during the official launch and sensitization workshop of the Second Kenya Devolution Support Program

“In the new era of information age, it behooves us as leaders to rethink how to structure successful public participation models. Citizens must be part of the process—not just as observers, but as co-creators of the development agenda,” he said.

Resolutions from the sensitization include the commitment to strengthen County programme management units, promote data-driven decision-making, align KDSP II with county priorities, and deepen public engagement in planning and implementation. Counties also committed to working closely with national government agencies and development partners to ensure seamless implementation of KDSP II across all counties.

As Kenya advances in devolved governance, the KDSP II promises to be a transformative vehicle, aligning national and county efforts toward a more inclusive, accountable, and results-driven devolution agenda.

COUNTRIES, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COMMIT TO STRENGTHEN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS TO ENHANCE THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Governors have called for strengthened consultation, collaboration and cooperation among all state and non - state actors in the Agricultural sector to ensure the smooth implementation of key projects and the realization of their intended impact for the benefit of all Kenyans.

During a high-level joint consultative meeting on World Bank-funded programmes between the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and the Council of Governors (CoG) held on 15th May 2025, the County Chiefs noted that County Governments have made significant strides towards advancing inclusive, resilient, secure and climate-smart food systems. These efforts aim to achieve the national food and nutrition security targets outlined in the Agricultural Sector Growth and Transformation Strategy (ASTGS).

“This forum presents a unique opportunity to genuinely reflect on what we have achieved, candidly assess what has worked; agree on what has not worked and why, and develop strategies together to make it work. Several projects have been instrumental in addressing the challenges facing the sector. Key among them is the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP), the Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP), and the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP),” noted the CoG Chair H.E FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi.

CoG Agriculture Committee Chair H.E Hon. Ken Lusaka, echoed these sentiments, commending the World Bank for its consistent partnership and investment in Kenya’s agricultural transformation.

“We must collectively address the issues affecting project implementation including the timely disbursement and absorption of project funds,” said the Bungoma Governor, urging the World Bank and National Treasury to establish seamless and predictable fund flow mechanisms.



CoG Agriculture Committee Chair H.E Hon. Ken Lusaka speaking during the high level consultative meeting





Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Mutahi Kagwe speaking during the high level consultative meeting

Delivering the official opening remarks, Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Mutahi Kagwe emphasized the need to jointly craft practical solutions to bolster the sector. He further outlined a raft of measures to be undertaken including the establishment of an Interagency Implementation Monitoring Unit (IMU), composed of representatives from all stakeholders. The unit will undertake independent and continuous monitoring and evaluation of all projects and programs in the agriculture sector and advise both levels of government on progress, challenges, and necessary interventions to improve efficiency and impact.

“We are at a pivotal moment in our country’s history, and we have been called to be change agents who will usher in an agricultural revolution. I reaffirm my, and the Government of Kenya’s, unwavering commitment to strengthening intergovernmental consultations and coordination between the two levels of government,” noted the CS.

The joint consultative meeting themed “Advancing Inclusive Agricultural Development for Enhanced Food Security and Wealth Creation,” also had in attendance Deputy Governors, County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) for Agriculture and fisheries, representatives from the World Bank and the National Treasury, as well as the National Project Coordinating Units for NAVCDP, ELRP, FSRP, KEMSFED, and other critical sector

“We must collectively address the issues affecting project implementation including the timely disbursement and absorption of project funds”
H.E Hon. Ken Lusaka

programs. Beyond core discussions on project implementation, the meeting also deliberated on the cross-cutting issues of common interest between the two levels of government including the rollout of the Digital Agriculture Roadmap, among other strategic priorities.

“As governments, let us not lose sight of whom we serve. Let this meeting mark the beginning a renewed resolve where policy, financing, and implementation work together to make agriculture not just a livelihood, but a lever for national prosperity,” added the CoG Vice Chair H.E Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, underscoring the need to build resilience at every level and ensure the sustainability and smooth transition of projects.

“The transformation these programmes have brought to our communities is evident. Let us build on the lessons learned and leverage existing opportunities to improve the sector,” noted his counterpart and Governor, West Pokot H.E Simon Kachapin

Additionally, the following County Governments were feted for their overall performance in the various projects (NAVCDP/ELRP/FSRP), with Taita Taveta County being acknowledged as the most improved County.

Under NAVCDP, Homa Bay, Taita Taveta and Nakuru counties were awarded while Samburu, Tharaka Nithi and Embu counties received recognition under ELRP. Under FSRP, Samburu, Garissa and Turkana counties were awarded.

Key resolutions arising from the meeting include: the National Government and the CoG to collaborate in ensuring the timely disbursement of resources for World Bank and other donor-funded agricultural projects for FY 2025/26; County Governments to allocate and disburse the required counterpart funding for donor-funded projects; the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to constitute a Projects Coordination Unit within the Ministry to coordinate the implementation of all ongoing and future projects and programs in the sector; facilitate regular monitoring, tracking of progress, and harmonization of project activities; and generate periodic reports to support better decision-making and improve overall project implementation outcomes.

Additionally it was resolved that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and the Council of Governors will jointly support the continuous implementation and scaling up of: the Agripreneur Model to enhance youth engagement and agribusiness development; the Livestock Vaccination Program to improve animal health and disease control; and the Animal Identification and Traceability System to strengthen livestock data management, traceability, and market access.

COUNTY COMMUNICATION LEADERS CHART NEW COURSE FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION ON DEVOLUTION

In line with its Strategic Plan 2022–2027, the Council of Governors (CoG) held a 3-day quarterly meeting from 6th May 2025 in Machakos County, bringing together Chief Officers and County Directors of Public Communication from across the 47 Counties.

The meeting provided a platform to reflect and engage on critical issues affecting the sector, learn, share experiences and best practices, while appreciating the critical role of public communication in promoting good governance, enhancing the visibility and impact of key programmes at the County level.

Making the official opening remarks, CoG Director Committees Kizito Wangalwa highlighted the pivotal role of effective communication in advancing Devolution emphasizing the centrality of civic education, citizen engagement and public participation in public communication and driving transformative development in our Counties.

“It is my hope that we will continue to defend Devolution and its tenets, showcasing the impact it has had on our own communities and Counties. We must also deepen and sustain partnerships between Counties, the Council of Governors and development partners to promote growth at the County level,” he noted.

The meeting was multifaceted, with a view to equip County communication teams with skills and insights across several critical areas. These include: strategic, crisis, and risk communication; access to information and data protection and the impact of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

Additionally, the session provided an opportunity to evaluate effective Communication Strategies, deepen understanding on the County budgeting processes within the Communication sector, explore developments in the carbon markets and climate financing space and, conduct elections for the Chief Officers’ Caucus leadership.

Giving her maiden speech as the newly elected Chair of the Chief Officers’ caucus Ms. Atieno Otieno of Homa Bay County underscored the need to effectively structure government communications to meet the complexities and unique dynamics of each County.

“We need to work closely with the ICT and Knowledge Management Committee at the CoG so that we present issues affecting communication in our respective Counties,” reiterated Ms. Atieno Otieno adding that preparations are underway to host the upcoming Devolution Conference 2025 scheduled to take place from 12th to 15th August 2025 in Homa Bay County.

The Chief Officers' Caucus chair will be deputized by Catherine Changwony (Nakuru County), with John Oywa (Kisumu County) serving as the Secretary General, Felistus Mutune (Makueni County) as the Treasurer and Daniel Kimutai (Elgeyo Marakwet County) as the Chief Whip.

Caucus Chair, County Directors, Public Communication in Kajiado Bill Muiruri on his part highlighted that as the custodians of public communication in the Counties, it is their duty ensure that Devolution is not only heard, but also understood, appreciated and sustained by the citizens it serves.

"Communication is the bridge between strategy and policy execution. It is a core pillar in the success of any government and plays a key role in connecting leaders with the public and attracting potential investors and development partners," added Mr. Bill Muiruri

Facilitating one of the training sessions, Head of Communication at the CoG Ms. Yvonne Ogwang emphasized the need for County Governments to anchor their communication activities in the annual work plans and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), noting that the County Government act provides the foundation for communication department, especially with regards to citizen participation, public communication and access to information and civic education.

During a sensitization session on the carbon markets landscape and the implementation of the FLLOCCA programme, Counties were urged to actively participate in the planning and budgeting processes to ensure long-term sustainability of communication activities and alignment with broader development goals.



CoG Director Committees Kizito Wangalwa speaking during the Chief Officers and County Directors of Public Communication quarterly meeting

"Counties should work collaboratively to ensure harmonized, coordinated and smooth implementation of key projects, programmes and initiatives including FLLOCCA at the local level. Additionally, I urge the County communication teams to work closely with the Climate Change units to enhance the visibility and profiling of key programs and improve Climate Change communication, messaging and reporting," noted the CoG Environment and Climate Change lead Mr. Brian Muthoka.

Participants underscored the urgent need for each County to develop and operationalize comprehensive communication strategies and policies, ensuring alignment to the overall County priorities. Additionally, there is need to develop structured frameworks to safeguard personal and institutional data while ensuring compliance with national legislation and best practices.

UGATUZI CORNER



Council of Governors (CoG) Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Chair H.E Dr. Ochilo Ayacko and H.E Mutula Kilonzo (Center), CoG CEO Mary Mwangi (2nd right) alongside County Attorneys during a sensitization forum on FLLOCCA and the carbon Markets landscape.

The CoG Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee convened a meeting on 7th May 2025 to deliberate on pertinent legislative matters affecting County Governments, appreciate FLLOCCA and further explore the carbon markets landscape. Key areas highlighted include: the legal and regulatory framework on carbon markets; County Governments' role in operationalizing legislation on carbon markets; and inter and intra-county dispute resolution guidelines. Thereafter, the Committee held its biannual meeting with the County Attorneys and Solicitors.

NEW SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY BOLD STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING HEALTH AND LEARNING PRE-PRIMARY CHILDREN

The Constitution of Kenya under, article 53(1) (c), guarantees every child the right to basic nutrition, shelter and health care. Article 53(2) further provides that a child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child. It is therefore an imperative for governments to ensure access to nutrition for all children in Kenya and adopt integrated approaches that support their survival, growth and holistic development.

It is against this backdrop that the Council of Governors in partnership with County Governments and Food for Education, has embarked on the development of a model school feeding policy, a critical document which will provide a framework for designing school feeding interventions in the Counties.

The model policy is envisaged to improve the health and nutrition status of pre-primary school learners in the Counties, ultimately promoting their development and enabling them to realize their full potential. It will detail among others, the roles of the various actors in implementation of the policy, the challenges facing school feeding interventions, strategies to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability.



Council of Governors (CoG) Director Committees Kizito Wangalwa, Director Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Irine Ogamba, Senior officers at the CoG, County Government representatives and Food for Education during the workshop on the model school feeding policy in Nairobi

The link between proper feeding, nutrition, early childhood development and sustainable national development is undeniable. Effective implementation of this policy will require the concerted and coordinated efforts of all relevant stakeholders. Let us all work towards safeguarding the lives of our children and securing their future.



www.cog.go.ke



@KenyaGovernors



Council of Governors-Kenya

KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



48 Governments 1 Nation