



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

**REMARKS BY H.E. JOSPHAT K. NANOK, CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF
GOVERNORS AND
GOVERNOR TURKANA COUNTY**

**5TH ANNUAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE
KAKAMEGA HIGH SCHOOL, KAKAMEGA COUNTY
23RD – 27TH APRIL, 2018**

***Your Excellency William Ruto, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya,
Excellency Governors,
Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution & ASAL,
Honorable Senators,
Deputy Governors,
Honorable Members of Parliament,
Permanent Secretaries,
Heads of Missions,
Members of the County Assemblies,
Other National Government Representatives,
Other County Government Representatives,
International Delegates,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.***

1. We have come to the end of a fruitful three day devolution conference. It has been a period of learning, networking and evaluating the progress made in the devolved system of governance. But one thing that the Fifth Annual Devolution Conference will be remembered for is the handshakes. And for that reason, allow me to say this- *turn to the person next to you, shake their hand and tell them- good job for staying till the end!*
2. As we come to a close of this conference, a clarion call to us leaders is that we should now steer this country from the handshake to genuine reconciliation. Ethnic divisions and hatred that emerge during election cycles are a cause for worry. It is time that we accepted that there is a problem and faced it head on. No more pretending that we are okay, when on the other hand we are plagued by negative ethnicity and bad politics. This is the time that we should thoroughly look at ourselves and ask- where did we go wrong and what can we do to heal this

nation? If Tanzania, a country of more than one hundred (100) tribes is able to bring all its communities together, how can we achieve the same feat? It is not at all impossible, but is dependent on our commitment to respect and adhere to our national values and principles as enshrined in Article 10 of the Constitution. Kenya is on the rise. For us to continue making economic progress, we must focus on bringing the nation together, eliminating corruption and prioritizing the needs of Kenyans in decision making.

3. We have discussed a lot in this conference with respect to health; agriculture; trade; infrastructure, urban planning, energy and housing; intergovernmental relations; management of human resource by Counties; financing; and good governance and accountability. And now work begins. We have generated very wonderful resolutions, but they will mean nothing if we do not implement them. All the institutions that

will be mentioned in the joint communique have the onerous task of ensuring that we have a good report when we all meet again next year.

4. All the speeches that have been made in this conference have emphasized on the need for synergy between the two levels of government to achieve Kenya's development agenda. This should not be taken lightly. The achievement of our goals will definitely be derailed if we fail to work together. This message of cooperation, consultation and coordination is one that needs to be taken very seriously by the technocrats. All public servants in both levels of government should facilitate collaboration, dialogue and better communication between the National Government and County Governments.

5. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, intergovernmental institutions should be strengthened so that they can be able to independently drive the devolution agenda. The secretariats of the Council of Governors and the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council urgently need to be anchored in law. This has pended for the last five (5) years, but I hope that it will be finalized at the earliest.

Distinguished Guests,

6. Let's inspire the African continent with what we want to achieve - to reduce preventable deaths to zero, to eliminate illiteracy and to eradicate extreme poverty in this and future Kenyan generations. But achieving these ideals will take action, not words. So I say to leaders in government, private sector, civil society, development partners and media here today: let us cooperate, collaborate and consult to ensure that all the dreams and hopes of the Kenyan people are fulfilled.

7. I would like to thank all of you for attending this conference and for your support these last three days. At the Council, we do not take it for granted that you took time off your busy schedules to join us here in Kakamega. I wish you safe travels back to your homes and places of work.

8. I now take this opportunity to welcome His Excellency Deputy President William Ruto to close the Fifth Annual Devolution Conference.

Thank you and God bless you.