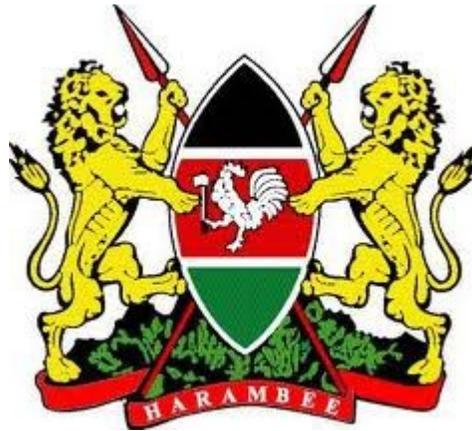


 **The Fifth Annual
DEVOLUTION
CONFERENCE | 2018**

Vote of thanks



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

**VOTE OF THANKS BY VICE CHAIR COUNCIL OF
GOVERNORS AND CO-CHAIR OF THE DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE
STEERING
COMMITTEE**



**CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 5TH ANNUAL DEVOLUTION
CONFERENCE**

KAKAMEGA HIGH SCHOOL, KAKAMEGA COUNTY

23TH - 27TH APRIL 2018

**Your Excellency, Hon. William Ruto, EGH, EBS, Deputy President
of the Republic of Kenya**

Excellency Governors Present

Hon. Cabinet Secretaries Present

Hon. Senators Present

Hon. Members of National Assembly Present

Hon. Members of County Assemblies Present

Ambassadors and High Commissioners Present

Representatives of Commissions and Independent Offices

Representatives from Government Departments

Development Partners present

Representatives of Youth and Special Interest Groups

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today marks the end of the 5th Devolution Conference – a conference that saw us engage in hearty discussions on matters devolution and make constructive deliberations aimed at improving the lives of Kenyans.

This event has been a reminder that as leaders we are bound by one accord - service to the people - and it is on that basis that even in the face of ideological differences we do not shy away from sitting at the negotiation table to channel the best way forward.

The country has witnessed the passion, commitment and dedication that each of us has – from the Presidency and Cabinet Secretaries to Governors, County Executives, Senators, MPs, MCAs, and development partners – and our zealous endeavour to support the Big Four agenda of

providing affordable housing, universal healthcare, ensuring food security and manufacturing as championed by the President of the Republic of Kenya His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta and His Excellency Deputy President William Ruto.

You Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

This conference would not have been a success without the support of the national government. I therefore wish to thank His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta who graciously accepted to be our Chief Guest.

His address was a challenge to all of us to put the interests of the people first and endeavour to better their living standards through impactful development projects. The launch of the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KSDP) and Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) will also benefit all the 47 Counties and ensure the advancement of devolution.

I would also like to thank former Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga for agreeing to grace this conference as a keynote speaker.

The move by His Excellency the President and Rt. Hon. Odinga to put aside their political differences for the sake of uniting the country is also greatly commendable.

As a country, we cannot underestimate the power of the handshake. The unity talks and the eventual handshake between His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga has sparked a sporadic wave of handshakes some that we never imagined would happen! And I will not name names.

I also commend the stewardship of Steering Committee led by myself as the Co-Chair, Hon. Senator Irungu Kang'ata and Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Devolution and ASAL.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Let me thank the Principal of Kakamega High School for providing a very conducive venue for this conference and to Amalemba Primary School for allowing us to use their facility for registration and safe holding space.

Coming in, the first thing that caught my attention was the signage: “If you are lazy, please try another school” I think that is such an outright way to sift between the wheat and the chuff.

Our Conference facilitator, Prof Karuti Kanyinga has been outstanding and kept us alert even during those drowsy afternoons.

You know, there is one House where we are used to seeing members sleep – gladly, our facilitator made sure that was not the case here.

The “Big Four” Sector Conferences facilitators have also conducted themselves professionally and kept us focused throughout the week. We are also very grateful to all our speakers, moderators and panellists who spared their time to share with us their knowledge and experiences.

We all agree that the multi-agency planning committee chaired by Ms. Jacqueline Mogeni, the CEO Council of Governors worked tirelessly since January this year to put together this conference in record time of four months. Thank you Jacqueline and Team.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Special thanks to the host governor His Excellency Wycliffe Oparanya for working round the clock to ensure this conference is a success.

Worth mentioning is the football matches played at the state-of-the-art Bukhungu Stadium. Other than the well-manicured playing turf and the meticulously designed terraces, we noticed one thing --- that suits and ties hide a lot of things.

Another thing we noticed was that as Governors we need to pull up our socks. Being beaten 5-0 by Senators is such an embarrassment, especially since these same Senators will still want us to appear before them to shed light on county expenditures for the next four years. Fellow Governors, we need to pick one struggle; we cannot be beaten in the field and in boardrooms as well.

Having said that, there is a special group of leaders that I need to thank - the County Assemblies Forum MCAs. These leaders saved us the embarrassment of losing to Senators by beating them 1-0 in the subsequent match. That has really helped us save face. Because of them, we can go back to our counties with our heads held high.

To the people of Kakamega, you have been very hospitable and welcoming - may the Isukuti drumbeats echo beyond this county and this country; may the *Kamapeka* dance - which I have learnt to love, spread to every corner of the African continent and the world.

On this particular note, I need to thank governor Oparanya for enlightening me on the difference between the Bukusu shoulder dance and the Maragoli shoulder dance. That is a lesson I will never forget.

While we're at it, we also need to thank Governor Oparanya for providing an enabling environment for a 24-hour economy during this devolution conference. Like the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga said yesterday, a lot can happen in a night time.

Overall, this conference has been a success! We have learnt a lot and the knowledge we have acquired here will help us serve our people better.

I would also like to appreciate the conference event organizers for such an amazing set up and sound system, the consortium of hotels in Kakamega County and adjacent Counties for the delicious Luhya delicacies, the Office of the Inspector General for ensuring security is top-notch, media houses for extensive and purposed coverage, and you distinguished delegates for participating actively in this conference. Let's give ourselves a round of applause!

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me convey my heartfelt gratitude to the following partners and sponsors for their financial support, technical support as well as support in kind.

National Government Sponsors: the Presidency, Ministry of Devolution and ASAL & Senate.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in acknowledging our Platinum Sponsors: Safaricom PLC.

We are also very sincerely grateful to the following sponsors, without whose support we would not have registered this magnitude of success:

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| Category Sponsors <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vision 2030 | |

It is this support, and the support of many who we have not mentioned that;

1. We have shared experiences, challenges and lessons learnt in the process of enhancing intergovernmental relations.
2. We have reached a consensus on modalities for realizing effective intergovernmental relations between both levels of government.

3. We have openly and very candidly reflected on mechanisms to enhance good governance and accountability, as well as strategies for effective management of human resources at both levels of government.
4. We have a clear status of the “Big Four”, the required enabling environment, the human resources perspectives and financing implications for growing four sectors as drivers of employment creation for youth and women, investments in Counties and national.
5. A joint Communique with strategic actions, whose implementation shall be coordinated collaboratively by the two levels of government in order to match towards **“Sustainable, productive, effective and efficient governments for results delivery”** in line with the Conference theme.
6. Consistent with our commitment to addressing the effects of climate change, we have bequeathed Kakamega High School with a remarkable botanical garden in memory of the 5th Annual Devolution Conference, and to support in growing our national tree cover to 10% and beyond.

We will be seeking the support of all partners in implementing the action points listed in the Joint Communique as well as bringing into fruition the propositions of previous conferences to realise the benefits of devolution as enshrined in the Constitution.

Finally, I would like to thank His Excellency Deputy President William Ruto for the leadership he has offered to the Council of Governors through the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC), for his support to this conference, making time off his busy schedule to officiate this

closing ceremony and launching the Inaugural Speeches for Excellency Governors.

With that, let me welcome His Excellency the Deputy President to officially close this conference.

THANK YOU!