



**The Fifth Annual
DEVOLUTION
CONFERENCE | 2018**

1st MAY, 2018

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE 5th ANNUAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2018

**Members of the Fourth Estate,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning!**

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 in Kakamega County from 23rd April 2018 to 27th April 2018.

In view of media reports, the multi-Agency planning committee would like to state the following: -

1. According to the tradition of the Council of Governors since the 1st Annual Devolution Conference held in Kwale, the timing for the Conference has always been hosted in April. This year, the 5th Annual Devolution Conference as a major event in the devolution calendar was similarly hosted in the month of April.
2. Despite April being a rainy season, the various regions hosting the Conference always find solutions to ensure the Conference is a success. However, this year has been a unique year with torrential rainfall being experienced country wide. Thanks to the organizers and Kakamega County, muddy roads and paths were graveled and the delegates provided with umbrellas to assuage the wet conditions.
3. Despite the bad weather conditions, the attendance of this particular Conference was impressive. This is the first time the conference was on full capacity throughout the three days. The plenary area that was built to hold up to 6,000 pax was full on all days and especially during the morning recap sessions that brought together the four breakout sessions.
4. The flavor in this conference was the fact that there were sector break away meetings on Health, Trade, Agriculture and Urban Planning & Infrastructure in line with the President's Big Four Agenda. The sector break away sessions were full with rich contributions from the members of the public, Private Sector, National and County Government representatives. All sessions were chaired by the Cabinet Secretaries (CS) or Principal Secretaries (PS) from the various

sectors. In attendance was the CS Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives Mr. Adan Mohamed, CS Ministry of Energy Mr. Charles Keter, PS Housing and Urban Development Mr. Charles Mwaura, the PS Crop Development, Dr. Richard Lesiyampe, PS Irrigation Fred Sigor, the PS ASAL Mr. Michael Powon, the PS Devolution Mr. Nelson Marwa, the Chief Administrative Secretary Ministry of Health Dr. Rashid Aman and the PS Health Mr. Peter Tum among many others.

5. The theory that key sectors skipped the 5th Annual Devolution Conference is therefore untrue. In fact, National Government was well represented taking this opportunity to make the public aware of its plans for the mwanachi. Case in point was the CS Information Communication and Technology Mr. Joe Mucheru who took to the podium to talk about how ICT will drive Universal Health Care in Kenya.
6. Additionally, we had over forty senators and Members of the National Assembly in attendance. Heads of Donor Institutions like the Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, the UN Resident Coordinator and his counterparts who stayed through all the sessions to the very last day of the conference.
7. The planning Committee continues to thank the Principal of Kakamega High School who through consultation agree to host the Devolution Conference in the School. The committee is in recognition of the damage on the grounds and it is such considerations that are made during negotiations for hiring the grounds. It should also be noted that where the main plenary hall was not the football field as stated in media report and that the football field that doubles up as the rugby field is still untouched.
8. On a positive note, Safaricom, the event's platinum sponsors who provided internet services for the event have put up good infrastructure that will ensure the school and the environs has access to speedy internet for years.

In Conclusion, the 5th Annual Devolution Conference was an all-time success not only to the organizers and attendees but to the people in the western and Nyanza region who reported a boom in business. All hotels in Kakamega, Kisumu and Mumias among other nearby regions were fully booked during the period.

A copy of the communique arising from the discussions of the 5th Annual Devolution Conference are hereby attached for reference.

Ruth Chitwa, HSC

On behalf of the Planning Committee