

KITUI COUNTY GOVERNOR'S VISION AND TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA: REMARKS DELIVERED DURING THE INDUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE NEWLY-APPOINTED COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI CECMs & COS HELD AT THE KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, LOWER KABETE, NAIROBI ON MONDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 2023.

I. INTRODUCTION

- It is my pleasure to join you all this morning during this induction program.
- The program has been designed to enable you to be taken through key subject areas that will be of immense value and assistance in the performance of your duties and responsibilities.
- I notice some of the important topical areas to be covered during the induction program include: constitutional and relevant laws, finance, procurement, human resource, preparation and presentation of cabinet memos, the public relations and corporate communication in public service, among others

- I advise that you actively participate as guided by your designated resource persons in order to achieve and realize the intended objectives of the program.
- I wish to once again congratulate you on your appointment as County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) and Chief Officers (COs), respectively.
- I am here to talk about **THE KITUI PROMISE**

II. GOVERNOR'S OVERARCHING VISION AND TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA – SIMPLY STATED

Simply stated **THE KITUI PROMISE** is about the realization of our collective developmental goals on the basis of the plans and strategies formulated and implemented in the next five years.

Put in another way, **THE PROMISE** is about unity of purpose of the hardworking, resilient and optimistic people of Kitui County, to resolve and commit ourselves to engage, consult, plan, implement and deliver development that empowers our people, sustainably transforms and improves the living standards and livelihoods for all. The foregoing aspirational **PROMISE** is aptly captured in the inspirational County Vision and Mission which we formulated under my leadership in 2013.

Whereas the County Vision that mirrors our collective goals, dreams and aspirations requires of us to work and aspire:

Kitui County Vision:

To be a prosperous county with vibrant rural and urban economies whose people enjoy a high quality of life.

Whereas the *County Mission* that spells out the principal purpose for which the county exists is:

Kitui County Mission:

To provide effective county services and an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development and improved livelihoods for all.

III. THE 16-SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The 16-Sector Development Agenda is drawn from my Manifesto, which is captured in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027.

After this training, you should be well armed to ensure that the 16-Sector Priorities are fully realized. These Priorities comprise the following facets:

1. Agriculture:

- Shift from reliance on rain-fed agriculture to irrigated agriculture through provision of water from major dams and sand dams program which aims at constructing sixty (60) sand dams in every ward, which translates to 2,400 sand dams across the entire county.
- Survey and design of strategic sump-well water supply schemes. The sump wells will be constructed in the major seasonal rivers such as Thua, Nzeeu, Ikoo, Mwitasyano, Katse, Tyaa, Tiva, Kaayo. These water supply schemes will be equipped with solar powered pumping systems to enhance food security.

- Construction/desilting of 8 mega/40 medium/247small-earth dams. These will provide access to water for livestock, small-holder irrigation and domestic/cottage utilities.
- Promotion of cluster irrigation through supporting farming with solar powered pumps, conveyance systems and storage water tanks.
- Construction of on farm ponds.
- Completion of irrigation policy and establishment of County Irrigation Management Unit
- Promotion of drought tolerant crops through farm input support
- Improvement of harvest and post-harvest management through provision of appropriate technologies
- Promotion of crop pest and disease management through integrated pest management
- Promote production of nutrient dense vegetables through kitchen gardens
- Promote production of bio-fortified foods (cereals and pulses) to enhance nutrition security
- Promote community crops seed bulking
- Promote agri-preneural skills through supporting farmers in SMEs

- Enhance farm preparation through subsidized tractor ploughing/ripping by ensuring there are two wellmaintained farm tractors for each ward
- Promote sustainable use of agricultural resources (conservation agriculture, water conservation and soil fertility management)
- Promote agro-forestry
- Strengthen capacity of Kitui Agricultural Mechanization Services through acquisition of appropriate farm machinery and equipment
- Training and capacity building of farmers on modern farming technologies and good agricultural practices
- Strengthen capacity of Kitui Agricultural Training Centre
- A Water and Irrigation Advisor has been hired.

Collaborative Initiatives

 The Governor met the PS for Irrigation, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, on 15th February, 2023, and discussed matters on areas of collaboration and support on irrigation projects and the sand dam programme in Kitui County, eg, construction and management of major Irrigation schemes like Usueni/Wikithuki, Kiomo/Kyethani Integrated Water Scheme, Kasarani Dam in Kitui South, Athi Kilawa, among others.

- Solarization of Wikithuki Irrigation Scheme
- To explore areas of collaboration for Thua Dam construction through a Public Private Partnership framework for irrigated agriculture.

Livestock and Apiculture

- Control and management of livestock pests and diseases
- Livestock disease surveillance for early detection of disease outbreaks to institute the appropriate management measures.
- Construction and establishing a diagnostic laboratory
- Purchase of *Sahiwal* bulls for cattle improvement for the farmers for increased meat and milk production
- Build capacity of farmers on pasture establishment and conservation for improved livestock feeds
- Train farmers on land carrying capacity and livestock management
- Purchase of assorted pasture seeds
- Purchase of improved hives and accessories
- Promote honey value addition
- Artificial insemination and estrous synchronization

- Local and dairy goat improvement
- Local Poultry Improvement (cockerels)
- Promote use of solar powered incubators for hatching
- Capacity building for meat inspectors
- Construct premier export slaughter house

Livestock and veterinary extension services

- Building capacity of extension staff
- Aquaculture Development
- Construction of Climate Smart Fish ponds
- Dam Stocking with fish fingerlings
- Install cold storage facility at Kiambere Dam fishing site
- Establish fish multiplication centre at Kitui Agricultural Training Centre

2. Water Provision:

- To enhance access to safe and affordable water services, the department has initiated the following:
- One mega dam in each sub county, two large dams in each ward, one medium dam in each village and boreholes at strategic points in each ward/village.
- Water harvesting through water tanks

- Survey and drilling of strategic boreholes across the County will more focus in hotspot areas such as Mwingi North, Kitui South and Kitui East.
- Survey and design of strategic sump well water supply schemes. The sump wells will be constructed in the major seasonal rivers such as Thua, Nzeeu, Ikoo, Mwitasyano, Katse, Tyaa, Tiva and Kaayo. These water supply schemes will be equipped with solar powered pumping systems.
- Rehabilitation, maintenance and solarization of 45 existing boreholes, in conjunction with development partners such as SNV, Unicef, Project Maji, Samaria Purse, FAO, CMMB WHH, Sweden Mutomo Project and World Vision.
- Drilling of 28 new boreholes in different wards.
- Support to WSPs (Kitwasco and Kimwasco). These are County entities established under the Water Act 2016 to provide water services to urban and peri-urbans in Kitui County.
- Construction of sand dams. This will enhance recharge in seasonal rivers to provide water for multiple uses.
- Water pipeline extension
- Water harvesting tanks
- Completion of Kangu Kangu Water Supply Scheme.

- The Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP) Level II Program on Water Projects: Mwitasyano-Kwa Kilui-Matulani-Kwa Kilya Water Supply Project; Mutomo Hill Tank to Kiati and Mathima Water Pipeline
- Mwitasyano-Nyanyaa-Kiliko Water Supply Project.

Collaborative Initiatives

- On 13th January, I had the honour of hosting the Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation, Dr. Kiprono Rono, where we discussed matters concerning completion works of: Mwingi-Kiambere Water Project, Kitumui Dam, Thwake Dam, Umaa Dam, Kindaruma-Kiomo-Mwingi-Migwani Pipeline Project, Kiambere-Mwingi Water Project, as well as the expansion of Masinga-Kitui water supply intake.)
- The County seeks to benefit from the National 100-Dam Programme through establishment of close rapport and cooperation with the State Department of Irrigation, where are seeking for consideration as a pilot county in this programme.

3. Health:

- To recruit 10 community health volunteers (CHVs) per village, totaling 2,470 for the 247 villages as we shift focus to preventive and promotive health care as opposed to curative health care.
- Establish Teaching and Referral hospitals in both Kitui and Mwingi.
- Construct Level (IV) hospitals in each sub county
- Upgrade to Level (III) hospitals in each ward,
- Construct/upgrade Level (II) hospitals in each village
- Establish modern maternity facilities in each Level (II) and Level (III) hospitals.
- Equipping of five maternity units at Kamandio Dispensary, Endau Dispensary, Muathe Dispensary, Kyuso Sub-County Hospital and Maai Dispensary
- Construction of Nzamba Kitonga Memorial Hospital in Mutitu/Kaliku.
- Ensure there is an ambulance in each ward.
- Purchase of equipment for Mwingi Mortuary
- Renovation of health facilities, eg, OPD at Kanyangi Hospital
- Renovation of laboratory roof at Kitui County Referral Hospital

Collaborative Initiatives

- On November 15, 2022, I hosted the USAID's Mission Director for East Africa, Mr. David Gosney, who promised to avail an Oxygen Plant for Mwingi. Areas of interest on health were HIV treatment, support and education of orphans and vulnerable children, as well as to strengthen maternal and child health.
- On December 14, 2022, the US Government donated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Generator to Mwingi Hospital that will produce gaseous oxygen from compressed air on site, and offer a cost-effective alternative to traditional oxygen gas cylinders that are currently acquired from Nairobi.
- The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Jennifer Galbraith, paid a courtesy call on 16th February and discussed Kitui's efforts to expand and strengthen HIV and TB prevention, care, treatment and surveillance.
- The National Ministry of Health will extend the contracts of the UHC staff for a further period of three-year term under the same terms and conditions (Communique No. 23).

4. Education:

- Construction of modern ECDE classrooms in every public primary school.
- Equip all ECDE learning centres with appropriate learning materials
- Conversion of ECDE teachers from casuals to permanent and pensionable by 28th February 2023
- Improve curriculum implementation for special needs learners
- Implement mentorship programs to support students at primary and secondary school levels
- Ensure quality assurance with regard to ECDE standards and norms
- Establish vocational training centres and equip them with training materials and adequate staff.

Collaborative Initiatives

 Collaboration with the National Government to improve primary and secondary schools' infrastructure and to install WI-FI in every youth polytechnic.

5. Urban Development:

- Re-installation and maintenance of street lights in urban centers
- Installation of solar security lights in each ward headquarters, small and upcoming trading centers
- Establishment of refuse collection and re-cycling centers and improving water and sanitation services in each subcounty headquarter and municipalities (solid waste management, water connectivity.)
- Integrate appropriate urban designs and guide on the general architecture and landscaping in urban areas.
- Marking of parking slots
- Improvement/installation of storm water drainage system
- Ensure there is a fully equipment fire engine and trained, competent personnel in every urban center.

6. Roads and Construction:

- Tarmacking and grading of prioritized county roads and the main streets in ward headquarters and key towns.
- Grading 50 kilometres per year of county roads in each ward.

- Acquisition and maintenance of road construction machinery in each sub-county. (This will include dozers, graders, excavators, shovels, rollers, backhoes.)
- Murraming of major county roads

Collaborative Initiatives

- Collaborating with the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), for tarmacking and maintenance of cross-county major roads
- In liaison with the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KERRA), identify roads for murraming

7. Trade and Investments:

- Operationalization and marketing of the county's six Economic and Investment Zones (EIZs)
- Organizing one Investor Conference before close of Financial Year 2023/2024
- Reinstate and organize the annual agricultural and trade fair
- Fully operationalize the ballast crusher at Kwa Kilui
- Establish annual livestock auction markets in each sub county

• Construction of a storage facility in each modern market for traders' produce/goods.

Collaborative Initiatives

 The National Government will allocate Kshs.100 million to every county as Conditional Grants for Financial Year 2023/2024 to operationalize the National Government's programme on aggregated industrial parks in counties. The Kitui County Industrial Park will be located at Kanyonyoo.

8. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises:

- Installation and maintenance of infrastructure to facilitate 24 hour economic activities (e.g. access roads, water and sanitation facilities, street lighting, enhance security, merchandise storage facilities, well lit merchandise loading and offloading bays, convenient *boda boda*, taxi and vehicle parking facilities, etc)
- Facilitate and support the acquisition of modern working equipment (e.g fabricated kiosks, computerized wheel alignment, hair dressing machines, shavers, carpentry and masonry tools, concrete mixers) etc.

Collaborative Initiatives

 The County Government will collaborate with the National Government on free Hotspot/Wi-fi program under the State Ministry of ICT.

9. Cooperative Societies:

- Facilitate registration of cooperatives per sector (honey producers, tailoring and garment making, hide and skins, charcoal producers, etc.)
- Training and strengthening of cooperative societies through enforcing self-regulations in the internal operations
- Administrative guidelines and application of information technology and support for and revival of dormant cooperatives through partnerships and capacity building in management, access to finance, production and marketing (honey processing, fruit processing etc.)

10. Hospitality and Tourism:

- Refinement and marketing of a robust and sustainable tourism circuit connecting Kitui county with coastal region and Mount Kenya region;
- Protection, conservation and erection of entry gates for the South Kitui Game Reserve, Mwingi North game Reserve and the Mutomo Reptile Park and Provide incentives for private sector investors/businesses in the entire hotel and hospitality value chain (through moderate taxation, licensing fees, land rates)

Collaborative Initiatives

 Liaise with the State Department of Tourism to open up the Kasaala Gate for tourists to access the Tsavo East National Park.

11. Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities:

 Support and facilitate at least one self-help group in each sub-county in the formation of cooperatives in key economic sectors including: *boda boda*, taxi/probox, tailoring, livestock trading, weaving, fruit farmers, poultry farmers, food vendors, bee keepers and honey processors, vegetable vendors, salonists, hawkers, car wash, shoe shiners, mechanics, hotels and restaurants, bar owners, social welfare association.

- Scouting and nurturing of local talents in various fields (athletics, football, acting, music, modeling, drawing and painting among others).
- A Culture, Talent Search and Development Advisor has been hired.
- Establishment of two stadia in Mwingi Kivou ward and Kyoani in Mutomo.
- Improvement of Kitui stadium to National standards
- Support of Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs) to register with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) and with the National Treasury to enable their 5% Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO);
- Reservation of 30% of the County's budgeted annual procurement opportunities for AGPO women, youth and PWDs.
- Consideration of youth both men and women for county senior level and other employment opportunities.

• Participation of all youth, women and people living with disabilities in public participation forums.

12. Boda Boda Sector:

- Training of Boda boda riders and assisting in acquisition of licenses, reflector jackets
- Assisting the boda boda riders to form a cooperative that will enable them save and access conventional loans
- Establishment of division within the ministry responsible for transport headed and staffed by officers who appreciate the sector and are passionate in the promotion, empowerment and development of the persons operating within the sector.

13. Environment:

- Tree planting in county schools, river banks and county forests; Supporting planting at least 10 trees in each homestead;
- Assisting women and youth to set up seedlings nurseries in collaboration with Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)

- Engage our village and ward administrators in the national tree planting program in conjunction with the local National Government leadership to ensure each homestead plants and care for at least 10 trees.
- Training and sensitization on environmental conservation in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- Implement sustainable charcoal management policy.
- Develop sustainable sand harvesting management policy and bill.
- Formulate and implement a sustainable mineral management policy.

Collaborative Initiatives

- During a courtesy visit by the Japanese Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Okaniwa Ken, his government pledged to support the forestry sector through tree planting (new and improved varieties of trees that are resilient to the climate), small agricultural holder farmers; and provision of training/capacity building to farmers.
- Deliberated about Kitui being a pilot county for commercial forestry.

14. Energy:

- Enhance household electricity connection in collaboration with REA
- Provision of solar power to off-grid social facilities (schools, hospitals and youth polytechnics), community solar access in partnership with private sector and NGOs
- Support community access to green energy (Biogas, Solar, Wind) in partnership with National government, private sector, NGOs, CBOs and Faith Based Organizations.

15. Information and Communications:

- Installation of mobile telephony masts in underserved areas of county in collaboration with mobile service providers;
- Installation of boosters and modern technologies for improved network coverage and
- Facilitate access to fiber optic infrastructure and use of digital technology in government offices and private sector entities within Kitui, Mwingi, Kwa-Vonza and other key county urban centers.

16. Security:

- In collaboration with the National Government, the County Government of Kitui will construct eight (8) police stations and a Cutline in the insecurity-prone areas along Tana River border that covers eight wards, namely, Kanziko/Simisi, Mutha, Voo/Kyamatu, Endau/Malalani, Nuu, Nguni, Ngomeni and Tseikuru. During our supplementary budget 1 for FY 2022/2023, we budgeted for Kshs. Forty million to start construction of three police stations at Twambui, Katumba and Mutha. H.E. the Governor has also appointed a Security Advisor to advice on matters security.
- Security and street lighting in the county's towns, market centers and public facilities including hospitals, village polytechnics, administration offices, day care centers.
- Collaboration with the National Government in security enhancement within the location/villages, divisions/ wards, sub-counties and in border areas prone to insecurity
- Operationalization of the County Policing Authority in partnership with the National Government
- Installation of CCTV monitors in the county's two municipalities of Kitui and Mwingi in partnership with private sector/business.

IV. HIGHLIGHTS

Since my Inauguration as the Governor of Kitui County, my Government has been able to achieve the following:

- Timely payment of salaries
- Development of Kitui County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027
- Constitution of Government Appointment of County Executive Committee Members and Chief Officers.
- Constitution of various task forces/committees, namely
 - **a)** Kitui County Pending Bills Review Committee 2022
 - **b)** Kitui County Human Resource Audit and Rationalization Committee 2022
 - c) Kitui County Government Motor Vehicles, Plant and Equipment Determination, Assessment and Evaluation Committee 2022.

Ministry of Health

- Conversion of amenity ward to ICU at Kitui County Referral Hospital
- Oxygen piping at Kitui County Referral Hospital
- Construction of Waiting Bay, chain link fencing and gate at Thaana Nzau dispensary
- Completion of the stalled Thitani Mortuary, including power installation
- Purchase of Cold Room for Thitani Mortuary
- Purchase of ICU equipment for Kitui County Referral Hospital
- Installation of Oxygen Plant at Mwingi Level IV Hospital.

Ministry of Roads

Tarmacking of St. Ursula Girls School Tungutu-Ithookwe Showground

Grading of:

- Itiko-Mukunga-Kamaembe road
- Kakuyu Nguku Katse road
- Mbusyani-Yethii-Ithiiani road
- Ulonzo-Kamaembe-Itiko-Kithumula-Kanzuu road
- Thua Bridge
- Kyuukuni-Kiangi-Emale-Kinakoni road
- Inyuu Catholic-Kwa Nzunzu-Kinzeni-Kwa Wewa Market road

- Inyuu-Kanzauwu road
- Majengo-Highway road
- AMS-Seku University road
- Thaana-Kithyoko road
- Thaana Bridge

Ministry of Trade

- Construction of Katothya market sheds, toilets and lighting
- Wii market shed, toilets and lighting
- Kamaembe market shed, toilets and lighting
- Thaana market shed, toilets and lighting

Ministry of Education

- Construction of Katothya Polytechnic, toilets and lighting
- Completion of 25 stalled/abandoned ECDE classrooms
- Donation of 21 unserviceable vehicles to vocational centres for motor vehicle mechanic courses

Ministry of Agriculture

• Provision of seeds to farmers

V. PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING

I have assigned the Deputy Governor the portfolio of Performance Contracting.

The process of performance contracting for the FY 2023/2024 should start on 1^{st} of April 2023 and the CECMs will be required to sign performance contracts with H.E. the Governor by 15^{th} of July 2023. The CECMs are supposed to ensure that the PCs are customized and cascaded to all the Ministries/Departments by 31^{st} of July 2023.

I have also appointed a Chief Officer responsible for Performance Contracting and Management. We have incorporated in our budget rewards for Ministries that will be ranked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Performance contracting aims at:-

• Improving efficiency in service delivery to the public by ensuring that holders of public office are held accountable for results.

- Improving performance and efficiency in resource utilization and ensuring that public resources are focused on attainment of the key national policy priorities.
- Institutionalizing performance-oriented culture in the public service.
- Measuring and evaluating performance.
- Linking reward for work to measurable performance.
- Instilling accountability for results at all levels in the government.
- Ensuring that the culture of accountability pervades all levels of government.
- Reducing or eliminating reliance on exchequer funding by public agencies.
- Strategizing the management of public resources.
- Recreating a culture of results-oriented management in the public service.

VI. THE UNDERPINNING GOVERNANCE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

In delivering **THE KITUI PROMISE & TRANSFORMATION AGENDA**, you will all be required to observe the tenets of Chapter Six, Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

Realization of **THE KITUI PROMISE** is *premised on transformative, inclusive, equitable, consultative, and participatory leadership* based on the following values and principles:

- Efficient service delivery and an enabling socio-economic environment.
- Motivated, qualified, and competent staff.
- Capacity building, staff welfare including timely payment of salaries.
- Accountable revenue generation and responsible budgeting.
- Equitable development across the county.
- Courtesy, respect, and fairness to the people of Kitui.
- Respect to the rule of law and non-tolerance to corruption.
- Prompt and non-discriminatory payment to suppliers and contractors and
- Affirmative action for Persons with Disabilities, minorities, youth and women and older persons.

The underpinning values that I have outlined mirror the principles specified under Article 10 on National Values and Principles of Governance; Article 232 on Values and Principles of Public Service, as well as Chapter 6 of the Constitution on Leadership and Integrity.

Article 232 on Values and Principles of Public Service requires that in the performance of their duties, public officers observe the following:

- (a) high standards of professional ethics;
- (b) efficient, effective and economic use of resources;
- (c) responsive, prompt, effective, impartial and equitable provision of services;
- (d) involvement of the people in the process of policy making;
- (e) accountability for administrative acts;
- (f) transparency and provision to the public of timely, accurate information;
- (g) subject to paragraphs (h) and (i), fair competition and merit as the basis of appointments and promotions;
- (h) representation of Kenya's diverse communities; and
- (i) affording adequate and equal opportunities for

appointment, training and advancement, at all levels of the public service, of--

- (i) men and women;
- (ii) the members of all ethnic groups; and
- (iii) persons with disabilities.

On the other hand, **Chapter Six** elaborates on:

- 1. Authority assigned to a State officer;
- 2. The guiding principles of leadership and integrity.

The authority assigned to a state officer is a public trust to be exercised in a manner that;

- (i) is consistent with the purposes and objects of this Constitution;
- *(ii) demonstrates respect for the people;*
- (iii) brings honour to the nation and dignity to the office; and
- (iv) promotes public confidence in the integrity of the office; and
- (b) vests in the State officer the responsibility to serve the people, rather than the power to rule them.

The guiding principles of leadership and integrity include--

(a) selection on the basis of personal integrity, competence and suitability, or election in free and fair elections;
(b) objectivity and impartiality in decision making, and In ensuring that decisions are not influenced by nepotism,

favoritism, other improper motives or corrupt practices;

- (c) selfless service based solely on the public interest, demonstrated by--
 - *(i) honesty in the execution of public duties; and*

(ii) the declaration of any personal interest that may conflict with public duties;

- (d) accountability to the public for decisions and actions; and,
- (e) discipline and commitment in service to the people.

Article 10 of the **Constitution** deals with National Values and the Principles of Governance. The national values and *principles of governance include:*

- (a) patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people;
- (b) human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized;
- (c) good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability; and
- (d) Sustainable development.

VI. CONCLUSION

The people of Kitui expect nothing but efficient delivery of services to them. We must not let them down.

H.E. Dr Julius M. Malombe, EGH GOVERNOR, KITUI COUNTY