



## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

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### **COMMUNIQUÉ AT THE END OF THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND COOPERATIVES REFORMS HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> to 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021 AT SAROVA WHITESANDS HOTEL AND SPA MOMBASA.**

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#### **Introduction**

The Council of Governors, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, USAID and World Bank Kenya held a consultative meeting to deliberate on the reforms currently being undertaken within the agricultural and cooperatives sectors, and forge partnerships in the sector with a view to improving service delivery at the county level.

The Council notes that the various ongoing reforms in the agriculture and cooperatives sectors have a direct impact on how County Governments discharge their constitutional mandates. In view of this, we call for a broader collaboration between the National Government, County Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector and all other stakeholders through the established sector intergovernmental coordination mechanisms in the development and implementation of reforms for sustainable transformation of the agricultural sector.

The Council also notes that the cost of fertilizer and other agricultural inputs have more than doubled crippling the transformation and growth of the sector. The meeting requests H.E the President to intervene to ensure that these costs come down.

Further, the Council notes the ongoing conflicts in the implementation of reforms in the coffee subsector by Presidential Standing Committee on Coffee Reforms and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives. We therefore call upon for resolution of these conflicts to ensure sustainable and inclusive development of the subsector.

The meeting therefore resolves as follows:

### **Resolutions**

1. **THAT**, the Council of Governors calls upon H.E Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya to order the National Treasury to at the earliest time possible revoke the 16% VAT imposed on the importation of agricultural equipment meant to promote value addition in the country.

***(Actors: Council of Governors, National Treasury and Ministry of Agriculture)***

2. **THAT**, the Council of Governors shall engage the National Government at the Summit in respect to the amendment of the Tea Act No. 23 of 2020 on the aspects that claw back on devolution.

***(Actor: Council of Governors and State Department of Crops Development)***

3. **THAT**, Council of Governors to hold a consultative meeting with the Senate and National Assembly Committees on Agriculture and Livestock to deliberate and build consensus on the contentious provisions of Coffee Bills, 2021, Sugar Bill, 2019 and other Bills before Parliament affecting the implementation of devolved agricultural functions.

***(Actors: Council of Governors, Senate and National Assembly)***

4. **THAT**, in the spirit of promoting economic growth and enhancing agricultural production, the Council of Governors will convene a consultative meeting with the National Treasury and Parliament to review and make necessary changes to all the taxes in the agricultural sector.

**(Actors: Council of Governors, National Treasury, Senate and National Assembly)**

5. **THAT**, Council of Governors and State Department of Cooperatives will undertake further review of the draft Cooperative Bill for effective implementation by the County Governments.

**(Actors: Council of Governors and State Department of Cooperatives)**

6. **THAT**, the Council of Governors, the USAID Kenya and other Development Partners will collaborate in strengthening the capacity of the COG and counties in implementation of devolved function and institutionalization of county agricultural and agribusiness chambers of commerce.

**(Actors: Council of Governors, County Governments and USAID Kenya)**

7. **THAT**, the Council of Governors shall convene a consultative meeting with the National Treasury, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Attorney General to review the directive against County Governments signing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Development Partners on the implementation of devolved functions that enhances direct support to County Governments.

**(Actors: Council of Governors, County Governments, National Treasury, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Attorney General and Development Partners)**

8. **THAT**, the Council of Governors, Ministry of Agriculture, USAID, World Bank Kenya and other Development Partners agree to continuously cooperate and consult in the conceptualization, management, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all projects and programmes under devolved functions.

**(Actors: Council of Governors, County Governments, Ministry of Agriculture, USAID and World Bank Kenya)**

9. **THAT**, henceforth the Council of Governors will not allow programmes or projects that have not been co-created and co-managed with Council to be implemented in the counties. We therefore call upon all Development Partners to ensure that all new projects and programmes are aligned to the respective County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) to avoid duplication and wastage of valuable resources. Therefore, the Council is demanding that it is represented in development cooperation agreement between the Government and Development Partners.

***(Actors: Council of Governors, Ministry of Agriculture, County Governments and All Development Partners in the agricultural sector)***

**10. THAT**, the Council of Governors in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture commits to develop a robust framework on the management of livestock disease and coordinate livestock vaccination programme.

***(Actors: Council of Governors, County Governments and State Department for Livestock)***

**11. THAT**, the Council of Governors Agriculture and Cooperatives Committee will strengthen and coordinate county efforts in the management of food safety initiatives including management of aflatoxins.

***(Actors: Council of Governors, State Departments for Crop Development and Livestock, and County Governments)***

**12. THAT**, the Council of Governors in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture will support the process of standardization of county legislation through development of model laws, cascading and aligning County legislation to the national policies, legislation and standards including the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS 2019-2029).

***(Actors: Council of Governors, County Governments State Departments for Crop Development, Livestock and Cooperatives)***

**13. THAT**, the COG, the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders will collaborate in creating elaborate plans for promoting production of livestock feeds in the country with a view of reducing its cost.

***(Actors: Council of Governors, County Governments and State Department for Livestock)***

**14. THAT**, the County Governments will support the development of the Livestock Masterplan to provide quality data for evidence based decision making as a menu of viable investment options in the livestock sector.

***(Actors: Council of Governors, County Governments and State Department for Livestock)***

**Signed**

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**H.E Hon. Martin Wambora, EGH**  
**Chairman, Council of Governors**

**Date: .....**

**H.E James Nyoro**  
**Chairman, Agriculture and**  
**Cooperatives Committee**

**Date: .....**