



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

**ADDRESS BY H.E Hon. GOV. FERDINARD WAITITU BABAYAO,
CHAIRMAN OF THE LAND, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AND GOVERNOR OF KIAMBU COUNTY**

**DURING THE NATIONAL URBAN FORUM
ON
15TH JANUARY 2018 AT KENYA BANKERS SACCO
NAIROBI**

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development

Principal Secretary, State Department for Housing and Urban Development

Fellow Excellency Governors present

County Executive Committee Caucus Chairman

County Executive Committee Members Present

Members of the National Habitat Committee

Development Partners Present

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning

It gives me great pleasure to address you this morning as I undertake my first official assignment as the new Chairman of the Council of Governors lands, planning and Urban Development Committee. As many of you might be aware, the participation of County Governments in this forum is critical since matters planning, housing and urban development are devolved to a great extent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The World adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and this year's theme gives us a good and timely opportunity to continue unbundling the SDGs and in particular Goal 11, which seeks to **enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization**. Goal 11.a further seeks the **support of economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning**. This goal is in line with our constitutional

aspiration that is well captured in the County Governments Act 2012 on the role of county planning, where the Act Tasks County Governments to ***“develop urban and rural areas as integrated areas of economic and social activity and ensure harmony between national, county and sub-county planning”***.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Rapid urbanization in developing countries has led to uncontrolled developments in urban areas and most of our urban areas and cities have overtime witnessed high population due to the preference by the population to live in cities. This has led to straining of existing infrastructure and poor provision of critical services. However, if proper management structures are put in place, urbanization can act as a source of economic growth within our counties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new Urban Agenda that was adopted in 2016 calls for the provision of adequate, affordable, accessible, resource efficient, safe, resilient, well-connected, and well-located housing with special attention to the proximity factor and the strengthening of the spatial relationship with the rest of the urban fabric and the surrounding functional areas. It is therefore important for the different levels of government to have continuous engagement and participation, in implementing the new urban agenda.

I wish to thank the ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and urban development for providing leadership in the preparation of the National report on Human Settlements that will inform and guide our participation in the World Urban Forum. I also wish to thank the Council of Governors for ensuring County Governments are engaged in the dialogue around the New urban agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are aware that the obligations placed on County Governments by the Constitution, the County Governments Act 2012 and the Urban Areas and Cities Act with respect to urban development and planning should be the driving force for Counties to install advanced systems that guarantee efficient, cost-effective and quality service delivery. Therefore, County Governments will continue to invest in information and communication technology in enforcing standards, norms and laws in planning.

Development control serves to ensure operations on land conform to spatial development plans as well as policy guidelines, regulations and standards issued by the planning authorities from time to time. Controlled development ensures: orderly physical development; optimal land use; proper execution and implementation of approved physical development plans; protection and conservation of the environment; promotion of public participation in physical development decision-making; and orderly and planned building development. And these are benefits that Counties remain cognizant of in these times of rapid urbanization. Our approaches to development and planning should culminate into safer, more secure and cleaner cities and urban areas, suitable for this and future generations.

As we are all aware, housing plays a critical role in quality of life within economic, social and cultural and personal significance.

However, we all know that currently Kenya is facing a serious shortage of affordable housing and most of the low and middle-income earners cannot afford the available mortgage rates.

While aware of the impact investment has in the welfare of Counties, we are keen to put in place measures that foster an investor friendly environment. I encourage counties to accelerate development and access to affordable and adequate housing through various strategies including public private partnership. National and multi-national corporations should be able to set up their operations in the Counties smoothly and successfully.

The Council would like to see a closer collaboration between the National Government and the County Governments in sustainable urbanization in order to deliver Kenya as a regional, continental and global trend setter in this arena. Our plans, policies and laws must translate into action for us to achieve this goal.

Lastly, Counties are the new frontiers for economic and social growth. Counties are ready for business. Investors and policy makers will find a wealth of opportunities in the Counties. It is my hope that this conference will explore meaningful avenues for cooperation amongst all stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we prepare to participate in the upcoming urban forum, it is important for us to think of the best ways of actively participating in this event and the best ways of harnessing knowledge and disseminating it to the all the Counties.

With these remarks, I thank You All.