



**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup>  
APRIL, 2018**

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

The Council of Governors this morning held an Extra Ordinary Council of Governors meeting where the following key issues were deliberated and agreed upon.

**A) Universal Health Care**

1. In view of the President's agenda to provide Universal Health Care for all citizens of Kenya, the CoG Committee on Health in partnership with the Ministry of Health, National Housing and Insurance Fund (NHIF) and the World Bank has developed a four (4) year plan with regards to the implementation and attainment of Universal Health Care.
2. The proposed approach for the implementation of UHC will be centered on three pillars:
  - Expanding health insurance by up scaling community based insurance. This will include coverage of the elderly, persons living with extreme disability, children under the age of 5 years, pregnant women and all high school students. Counties will therefore partner with the National Government to fast track the gazettment of facilities within their jurisdiction to enable NHIF accreditation;
  - increasing access to services by strengthening primary health care through increase in human resource for health including community health workers; and
  - Financial Inclusion through tax based financing
3. In addition, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the County Governments intends to establish 4 cancer hospitals country wide, increase centers of excellence on kidney health, and equip an additional 21 hospitals on Management Equipment Services. This plan will roll out in May 2018 and is expected to ensure that all the

Citizens are able to access health care affordably. The goal is to ensure that 51.6M Kenyans are on board by the year 2022.

4. In view of this, the Council of Governors has requested the Ministry of Health to pilot the Universal Healthcare Project in all 47 County Governments to ensure that both levels of government implement this agenda together. We request that the Kshs. 1.7B be utilized to support all 47 Counties and not 4 pilot counties.
5. Further, the Council recommends that If there is possibility of front loading the Kshs. 3B of the fifth year funds for Transforming Health System for Universal Health Care Project then, this MUST be utilized by all 47 counties.
6. For non-communicable diseases, the prevalence varies from County to County and they are expensive to treat. Therefore, the Ministry of Health together with NHIF will work together to ensure this non-communicable diseases are included in the NHIF cover.
7. In the spirit of this collaboration, we have equally agreed that, the NHIF will shorten the process of identification of the NHIF accredited facilities and that the Council of Governors shall be represented in the NHIF Board.
8. We ask the NHIF to ensure that all is well within their end to ensure that we are all well able and ready to deliver services to Mwanachi. The Council of Governors therefore calls upon each County to prepare adequately to be able to roll out the implementation effectively and efficiently.
9. In essence we will work together to ensure that the whole population is reached by a unified essential package of health service through a strong Primary Health Care (PHC) service delivery system. The Universal Health Care will start out moderately and incrementally grow to cover all citizens.

### **Lessons from Cuba**

1. The Council of Governors has learnt that;
  - Cuba has completely eliminated malaria
  - Treats diabetes patients using organic vaccines
  - Is on the second phase of testing for a HIV vaccine having passed the first phase
  - Cuba is an exporter of highly trained doctors
2. In view of this, the National Government has imported 100 specialized doctors from Cuba to work in the Counties and in the two national referral hospitals. The salaries of these doctors will be paid by the National Government and County Governments will provide furnished housing facilities, security and transport.
3. The doctors will train County Health Workers on malaria vector control and on the management of HIV, Hepatitis and Diabetes.

4. Additionally, the Ministry of Health will sponsor 50 doctors across all Counties for a 2 year training in Cuba majorly on family care. Counties will therefore sign an MOU to operationalize the workings of the specialist doctors from Cuba beginning June 2018.

### **Division of Revenue Bill**

The Council of Governors noted the following issues at the meeting with the Senate Finance Committee;

1. The Fuel levy fund was agreed to grow from 15% to 20%. However, the Division of Revenue Bill has it that 15%. However, after further consultation with the Deputy President and the CS Treasury, it was agreed that the Fuel Levy Fund be moved from 15% to 19% which also be factored in the Roads Bill.
2. Agricultural Sector Development Program II worth Kshs. 1.8B was not factored in the DoRB
3. Additionally, the Global Fund worth Kshs. 1.5B was not factored in in the DoRB
4. The amount for the Medical Equipment Lease had increased from Kshs. 4B to 9B yet the Counties have not seen any agreements on the same.
5. The Council therefore recommends that the Senate spearheads legislative amendments of the Intergovernmental Relations Act to safe guard intergovernmental agreements and to fast track the disbursements of County Funds.

### **County Pension Bill**

1. The Council observes that, there is a **County Pension Scheme Bill 2017** currently before the Senate as introduced by the National Treasury. The Council takes great exception with this Bill because there had previously been a Bill on County Pension Fund that had been passed by the last Senate. The passed Bill had involvement of every stakeholder including the general public and to negate this will be detrimental to everyone involved.
2. The Council therefore requests the Senate to throw out this new Bill of whose origin we have no information of.

### **Devolution Conference**

1. The Council of Governors in Collaboration with the Ministry of Devolution, Planning ASAL and Senate and other stakeholders will hold the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Devolution Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

2. The meeting will officially be opened by the H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta. The Deputy President H.E William Ruto will close the meeting as well as launch the Speech Inaugural Book while hold discussions in a Finance Panel.

Signed by:-

**H.E. Hon. Josphat Nanok**  
**Chairman, Council of Governors**