



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

**REMARKS BY H. E. PROF KIVUTHA KIBWANA
HANDOVER LUNCHEON AT MOVENPICK HOTEL
29TH JANUARY, 2021**

**Excellency Governors and Deputy Governors present,
Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution & ASALs,
Hon. Lady Justice Philomena Mwilu, Ag. Chief Justice and the President of the
Supreme Court,
Deputy Ambassador of Denmark to Kenya, H.E Henrik Larsen, representing the
Chairperson, Devolution Donor Working Group,
H.E. Simon Mordue, European Union Ambassador to Kenya,
Mr. Walid Badawi, the UNDP Resident Representative,
Chairpersons of Constitutional Commissions and members, led by Mrs Lyn
Cherop Mengich, the Chairperson of SRC,
Representatives of Independent Offices,
Representatives from the Private Sector,
Other Development Partners present,
Distinguished Guests,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon!

1. Today, we are gathered here to celebrate and mark yet another peaceful transition of the Council of Governors leadership.
2. I take this opportunity to thank all Excellency Governors for the support extended to my colleagues for the last two years during my service as the Chief Whip of the Council of Governors.
3. I must say that the role of the Chief whip is very simple by definition but very difficult to execute. However, I am grateful for the strides we have made as a

Council in the last two years. Attendance of Council meetings as well as consensus on matters of common interest has been commendable.

4. Some of the notable achievements in the last two years include:-
 - i. The *Okoa* Devolution Campaign that was as a result of the Supreme Court advisory filed by the Council of Governors.
 - ii. The COVID-19 preparedness and response by County Governments.
 - iii. Attendance of a record number of Governors during the Extra-Ordinary Council meetings to address matters relating to COVID-19. These meetings culminated to Summit meetings which were well attended by my fellow Governors.

- iv. Successful execution of the County COVID-19 virtual conference that brought together various stakeholders to examine the emerging evidence on how to manage the virus.
5. Indeed, these achievements have been realized through collaborative effort and for that, I convey my deepest gratitude to everyone who played a role in safeguarding the future of devolution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. The Council has remarkably built itself around the mission “Benchmark of excellence in devolution that is non-partisan; providing a supporting pillar for County Governments as a platform for consultation, information sharing,

capacity building, performance management and dispute resolution.” This is a mission that can only be delivered if we work together. Therefore consultation, collaboration and cooperation is key for the success of devolution.

7. As I conclude, I wish to thank you all for the support and cooperation in the last two years. The able leadership of the outgoing Chairman, H. E Wycliffe Oparanya and the Vice Chair, H.E Mwangi Wa Iria successfully managed to steer the Council to where we are today. It is my hope that the incoming Executive will keep up the momentum.

8. I now take this opportunity to convey my congratulations to the new Executive team and the entire leadership. I pledge my full support to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank You and May God bless, guide and protect us all.