

**SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR HON. (PROF) PETER ANYANG'NYONGÓ AT THE
OPENING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSS WORKSHOP AT THE
ROYAL SWISS HOTEL ON 3RD DECEMBER 2018**

The Cabinet Sectertary, Ministry of Devolution and the ASALS, Hon. Eugene Wamalwa,

The PS Ministry of devolution, Mr. Charles Sunkuli,

The COG Commitee Chairperson on Intergovernmental Relations – H.E Governor Stephen Sang

The Governor of Makueni County H.E Prof. Kivutha Kibwana,

The Pioneer COG Chairperson and the former Governor of Bomet County H.E Isaac Ruto,

The Pioneer Speaker of the Senate, Hon. Ekwe Ethuro

The Senator, Kisumu County, Hon. Fred Outa,

The Chairperson Senate Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relatuons Hon. John Kinyua Nderitu,

The Chairperson Senate Public Accounts Committee, Hon. Moses Kajwang

The Chairperson of the National Assembly Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee, Hon. Jeremiah Kioni,'

The Chairperson County Assemblies Forum, Hon. Johnson Osoi,

Members of the National Assembly present,

Members of Kisumu County Assembly present

Invited Distinguished guests,

Members of the Fourth Estate,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

“If freedom was the crown which fighters of liberation sought to place on the head of mother Africa, let the upliftment, the happiness, prosperity and comfort of her children be the jewel of the crown. There can be no dispute among us that we must bend every effort to rebuild the African economies”. That was the voice of Nelson Mandela at the 1994 OAU Summit in Tunis, Tunisia.

Ladies and gentlemen, where is the relevance of Madiba’s rallying call on us to “rebuild our economies” in our society today?

The Constitution of Kenya at Article one recognises the sovereignty of the people of Kenya, who have been gracious enough to delegate the responsibility of governance in the hands of the elected leadership. The major concern for them therefore is realization of enhanced service delivery and good governance.

The same constitution introduced the two levels of governments which are distinct and interdependent, primarily to bring governance to the doorstep and improve service delivery by involving the citizenry more in public decision making.

The seamless interdependence of the two levels of governments is anchored on Intergovernmental Relations which has the enviable role of facilitating the alignment and coordination of the administrative and governmental systems.

The attainment of this seamless interdependence between the two levels of government will definitely put us at a pedestal of building our economy.

This is why ladies and gentlemen; I am truly excited to join you here today to participate in the conversation of how we can make better our intergovernmental relations that should eventually lead us to Canaan of economic prosperity.

The high calibre of participants gathered here today fills me with hope in the future and true belief that indeed we made the right choice to bequeath unto ourselves the devolved system of government.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the privileged position I hold as the governor for the people of the great County of Kisumu has convinced me beyond any reasonable doubt that devolution is truly the next best thing that happened to this country after penicillin and probably followed by the internet. This is exemplified in the improved access to healthcare provision, improved road

networks in the villages, enhanced access to water and safer environment and a more economically empowered populace.

It is this hope and conviction in the success of devolution that has made us here in Kisumu to affirm our resolve in actualization of devolution as spelt in our laws. We shall soon be embarking on the recruitment of the village administrative structures once we receive the nod from our County Assembly. These structures – the Village Councils, will further improve the participation of our people in the management of government affairs. The epitome of “bottom up” philosophy!

Ladies and gentlemen,

The six years of devolution has provided us with a learning platform that must be embraced in order to propel devolution experience.

As we enumerate the successes of devolution, we must be cognisant of the challenges that have continued to insulate its uptake.

We must be bold enough to confront the reality that devolution continues to dogged by the impact of sceptics whose behaviour affect societal behaviour, some of which are deliberate efforts targeting resource suffocation to devolved services. At the same time, deliberate efforts must be made to address the inadequacy in human resource capital which accounts to about 60% of the hiccups in the devolution uptake chain.

In order to safely navigate the enumerated challenges, we must appreciate the significance of the role of the intergovernmental relations institutions in making devolution work for this country. This calls for internalizing of the provisions of the constitution which recognise the functionality of the two levels of government as highlighted in Articles 6, 174, 186 and 189.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We need to look back at the first phase of devolved governments as a learning curve which should have laid out the foundation for take-off in the second phase today.

This workshop then presents us with a pregnant opportunity to analyse and determine the efficacy and adequacy of the legislations relating to devolution while at the same time calling to action the actors in both levels of government to be more conversant with the whole concept of intergovernmental relations.

This workshop wouldn't have come at a more opportune time as it accords us a platform to harness succinct recommendations for implementation by both levels of government with regard to IGR.

We need to draw from the experiences of the pioneer devolution leaders from both levels of government.

Our humble duty as county governments will be to continuously offer support to intergovernmental relations institutions particularly the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee which we look upto to play a critical role as a neutral intermediary between the COG and the Summit.

The role of IGRTC in making devolution work cannot be overemphasized and it is therefore incumbent upon both levels of government to provide unequivocal support to its activities as envisaged in the law.

Ladies and gentlemen,

My government forever remains committed to the true ideals of devolution, a walk that is taken in very close companionship with the National Government. We are in the process of registration of our people to Universal Health Coverage, having been graciously selected by the national government among the four piloting counties.

Two weeks ago, we converged in Marakech, Morocco for the 8th edition of Africities Conference. Kisumu with the support of the national government put in a bid to host the 9th edition scheduled for 2021 and indeed won against pronounced names such as Cairo and Cape Town.

Hosting this premier event will see about ten thousand delegates converge in Kisumu with a resultant direct injection of about two billion shillings to our economy.

These are clear examples of what can be achieved when the two levels of government work in consonance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank IGRTC and the organising committee of this workshop for choosing Kisumu as the host, especially our own Prof. Judith Attyang. Surely a fruit doesn't fall far from the tree. May you continue bear fruits for us at the IGRTC.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to Kisumu, the great County of boundless passion. You are welcome to indulge; indulge in our finger licking fish; indulge in our great scenic sites such as Kit Mikayi; indulge in the only other game park in the city out of Nairobi; indulge in the beautiful welcoming people of this great county.

Thank you and May God bless us all.