

REMARKS BY HON. EUGENE WAMALWA, CABINET SECRETARY FOR DEVOLUTION AND ASALs DURING THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO HOST THE AFRICITIES CONFERENCE IN KISUMU IN 2021

Today we are signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) for hosting the forthcoming 9th Edition of the Africities Summit in November, 2021. The Ministry of Devolution and ASALs will partner with the County Government of Kisumu to ensure successful hosting of the Summit. In this regard, the national government will offer support through infrastructural development, funding, capacity building and technical assistance.

The Summit provides a platform where different experiences in the management of sub national governments are shared. The objective is to gain new and innovative insights into advancement of local governance and improved service delivery to the citizens with the aim of improving their living standards.

The hosting of the Summit in Kisumu therefore provides Kenya with an opportunity to share our experiences in implementing the devolved system of government. The adoption of devolution by Kenya through the 2010 Constitution presented a unique opportunity to empower our sub national governments, including cities and municipalities, to improve on service delivery and respond to the aspirations of their citizens.

This is the first time that Africities conference will be held at an intermediary city other than the main cities. This places Kisumu City at a vintage position to build partnerships with a wide range of state and non-state actors, business communities and the Government of Kenya to deliver a successful Africities Summit in 2021.

The event is expected to bring close to 8,000 delegates from all over the world to our third largest city. It will therefore greatly enhance the economic activities not only in Kisumu county but in the greater Lake Region Economic Block and Kenya as a whole. The event will also boost the efforts of the County Government of Kisumu to elevate the status of Kisumu City to an international city.

