

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SPEECH BY H.E PROF. PETER ANYANG'

NYONG'O EGH, GOVERNOR KISUMU COUNTY

DURING THE LAUNCH OF MENARA TREE

NURSERY, MUHORONI, KISUMU.

October 121ST, 2020

The County Commissioner

The speaker of County Assembly

Members of County Assembly present

Private Sector Representatives

Representatives from National Government agencies present
(Kenya Forestry Services, Water Resources Authority, Kenya Wildlife
Services, Kenya Water Towers Agency)

County Government Officers Present,

Members of the Fourth Estate,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

It is a great pleasure to join you today, in launching Menara Tree Nursery, one of the flagship projects of my Government implemented by the Directorates of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources.

Let me take this early opportunity to thank you all for attending this launch, which remains a great milestone to my County Government, and the National Government in achieving 10% forest cover. In-deed you are now all our champions in matters of conserving our Kisumu County Environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our country's constitution confers to its citizen, the right to a clean and healthy environment. In the 10-point agenda of my manifesto, the environment agenda is clearly spelt out. I set out to ensure that our populations enjoy healthy living in a clean environment and to also conserve the environment as we open up spaces such as the lakefront for business.

I want to affirm that we are on track to delivering these promises to our people. My commitment in actualization of this is evident in ongoing projects that are being implemented by both the department

of Water, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources and that of the City.

Distinguished guest,

Allow me to quote Swaminathan who opined that “If Conservation of natural resources goes wrong, nothing else will go right”. You and I will, to a large extent, agree with him in reference to Kisumu County. Our forest remains one of the lowest in the country a position I am determined to change.

Today’s launch this 150,000 assorted tree seedlings distribution, produced and natured from this nursery is part of our big journey to raising our forest cover. With similar productions from the other nurseries spread across the county – Ogoro in Nyakach, Karanda in Nyando, Pap Kadundo in Seme and the Show Ground in Kisumu east, we target to produce about 500,000 tree seedlings annually. As we plant trees in our public institutions and spaces, I want to encourage each and everyone of us to take afforestation more seriously than ever before.

My Government, in partnership with other stakeholders, target to forest the following hills; Songo, Koru, Nyatigo, Kisian and Kajulu amongst others. We shall also work Closely with Kenya forest

Services in enhancing reforestation of the 400 hectares Koguta Forest and the 25 hectares Karateng Forest.

My fellow champions,

I want to urge each household to set aside portions of land for tree growing. In doing so we shall accelerate tree cover within our region. We do have a variety of agroforestry options to choose from; Orchards, Boundary, Woodlots, Ornamental, Buffer Zones, and Private Forests among others for our benefit. Personally, bamboo cultivation is close to my heart, the bamboo has multiple benefits ranging from ecological, social and economical.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our competent technical environment staff present in all sub-counties, working closely with the Kenya Forestry Services will always be at your service advising on the best way to utilize our land for posterity.

Ladies and gentlemen, we look up to you to steer this county's great path to increased forest cover. I am particularly impressed by the efforts of partners such as KFS, KIWASH, Kazi Mtaani and Plan International – Kenya for their participation in this agenda. I will be happy to have a consortium of both the public agencies and non

state actors including private sector driving the afforestation programme in Kisumu. My office is open for ideas on this.

I am aware that keeping our environment more friendlier will call for some strict compliance to laws that we have put in place. My government will not be king to those who abuse or misuse the environment. In this regard, I issued an executive order on management and harvesting of resources from our environment. I want to urge the department of Environment to use more robustly the expanded inspectorate to ensure compliance.

We are also devolving the management of the environment to the village level with the constitution of the village councils, as one of the five responsibilities of the councils is matters environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to conclude by impressing upon the Assembly on the need to better resource the department for rapid greening outcomes. Let us all strive to leave a legacy of better managed environment within our wards and to genuinely support the department's effort in actualizing greening of our environment.

With this few remarks I wish to officially launch the Menara tree nursery and the countywide distribution of the produced seedlings.