

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SPEECH BY H.E PROF. PETER ANYANG’
NYONG’O EGH, GOVERNOR KISUMU COUNTY
DURING THE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON
“PATNERING TO ACCELERATE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF CARGO DIVISION AND COLD
CHAIN LOGISTICS AT KISUMU INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT”, ACACIA HOTEL, KISUMU.**

February 24th, 2021

The Chairman of the Lake Region Economic Bloc, H.E Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya;

The CEO for Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya, Mr. Okisegere Ojepat;

The Chairman of Kisumu Lakefront Development, Dr. Edward Ouko;

The CEO Lake Region Economic Bloc, Mr. Abala Wanga;

Representatives of various National Government Institutions;

Distinguished Delegates;

Members of the Fourth Estate,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great joy to host and address this congregation focused on creating a voice for the development of the cargo section of Kisumu International Airport to spur fresh produce development in the Lake Region Economic Bloc. Freight services is core to the development of business growth and aviation plays a critical role in the global village we live in today.

The upgrade of Kisumu International Airport to include freight services and cold rooms is long overdue and the heightened conversation from the stakeholders such as gathered here today will go along way in delivering this critical message to policy makers and implementers.

The expansion of Kisumu International Airport is an essential element for the development of the region as it gives hope to farmers and fishermen in the area and signals a pragmatic approach to cooperation, grounded in the priorities of the Kenyan Government at the national and regional levels.

This will be an important factor in exciting and energizing the boundless opportunities of horticultural, fisheries and meat products from the region.

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya, Kisumu Lakefront Development Corporation,

Kenya Airways and the other stakeholders in this journey for partnering with the County Government of Kisumu, the Lake Region Economic Bloc, Kenya Airports Authority and the National Government to advance discussions around acceleration of this idea with profound economic impact to the region under the theme ‘Accelerating the Establishment of Cargo Division and Cold Chain Logistics’.

Needless to say that the realization of this project will not only spur investments and industrialization but will catalyze job creation leading to sustainable livelihoods and reduced poverty in the region as envisaged in the SDGs.

As you might already be aware, Kisumu will be holding the 9th Edition of the Pan African Africities Summit, now scheduled for April 2022. The theme of the Summit, “the role of intermediary cities in implementing the African Union agenda 2030 and African Union agenda 2063” is definitely reflected in the conversation we are having today.

Building inclusive, resilient and smart cities means investing in aspects that touch on all segments of economic development. I am sure that our teams working on the development of the Kenyan position around the theme will find the outcomes of this forum more than useful.

We are living in very difficult economic times compounded by the ravaging effects of the corona virus. Nations around the world are tottering around economic melt downs. Here at home, not only are we experiencing one of the hardest economic times, we are also heaving under the weight of debilitating debt. We must reverse the trend by exciting productivity.

We cannot meaningfully excite productivity if we do not invest in areas that grow interest in primary production.

The development of this vision will spur growth in the farms with our horticultural producers, the poultry farmers, the fisheries and livestock farmers ramping up their production capacities.

This growth will impact the value of the local economic development which will in turn translate to growth of the national GDP.

We all have a right to play our part in the development agenda of this great nation but with enabled strategic investments.

Finally, I want to thank the National Government through the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure for committing 1.2 billion shillings for the rehabilitation and improvement of the passenger capacity at Kisumu International Airport in time for Africities 2022.

This upgrade will see the airport passenger capacity rise to almost 1 million per year from the current 500,000.

I am also aware that a number of airlines have applied for direct international routings from Kisumu. This airport is indeed at the cusp of attaining true international status.

The only missing ingredient in this exponential growth is the establishment of Cargo Division and Cold Chain Logistics.

The time to make that investment is now. This virgin opportunity is here for all; both government and the private sector.

Let's play our part!

Thank you and welcome.