

# THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



*Office of the Deputy Governor*

**KEY NOTE SPEECH BY H.E THE DEPUTY  
GOVERNOR DR. MATHEW OWILI DURING  
LAUNCH OF KISUMU COUNTY CLEAN  
COOKING FORUM AND DISTRIBUTION OF GEL  
STOVES AND FUELS ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020 AT  
OFAFA MEMORIAL HALL, KISUMU**

⇒ CECM- Energy & Industrialization

⇒ Chief Officers

⇒ Partners (CCAK, SNV, Practical Action Eastern Africa, Biogas International Ltd)

⇒ All County Staff

⇒ Community Members

## **Good morning**

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this important event, **The 1<sup>st</sup> Kisumu County Clean Cooking Forum** and start of distribution of Gel Stoves and Fuel across the County on behalf of H.E Governor Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o.

## **Ladies and gentlemen,**

The Government recognizes Sustainable Energy as an enabler to all aspects of development (social, economic, political and environmental) including access to Health, Water, Agricultural productivity, Industrial productivity, Education and other vital services which improve quality of life. In this regard, The County Government of Kisumu in its development agenda as outlined in CIDP II and Governors 10 point Transformative Agenda is committed to promoting access to Reliable, Sustainable and Affordable Energy for Kisumu County residents in

contribution to National Government call for ensuring universal access to energy for all and realization of Vision 2030.

It's is a common knowledge how burning solid fuels impacts the environment and imposes a health risk to humans through exposure to smoke during cooking. Indoor air pollution is harmful but has historically received relatively partial attention when compared to other health risk factors that lead to similar levels of mortality e.g. Malaria, and now Covid-19.

The use of dirty fuels has a lot of negative effects on health. In Kenya according to The Kenya Household Cooking Sector Study Report, 2019, the annual disease burden arising from cooking using polluting and inefficient fuels is at 49% with the number of deaths recorded at 21,560 translating to 57 deaths daily.

This is 5 times the number of lives lost to traffic accidents annually and even the current global Covid-19 pandemic has not reached to this level. However, this is expected to reduce as Kenya envisions 100% access to Clean Cooking solutions for populations by 2028, an initiative that requires involvement of everyone.

In Kisumu County, use of conventional energy as primary source of cooking is predominantly met by biomass and up to 79.6% of households still use unclean fuels (Firewood-49.6%, Charcoal-22.2%, and Paraffin-7.8%) according to Kenya Population & Housing Census report, 2019. This is a worrying trend for Kisumu and if we don't combine effort, the number of deaths will continue to increase and our forest cover will never change from the current 0.442% (KFS 2015) and the effects of Climate Change (Extreme Floods and Droughts) will continue to ravage our communities.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In view of the current economic challenges Kisumu County and entire Nation is facing, the ever increasing population and energy crisis need to switch to alternative clean sources and the institutions adapt to own energy investment and production. These alternatives such as use of Solar, Biogas, Briquettes, Ethanol, Gel and other technologies for domestic & industrial cooking & heating applications have been proved to reduce per capita wood fuel consumption and further reduce the household emissions of carbon dioxide and particulate matter.

To support this effort, County Government of Kisumu recently procured 280 Gel Stoves and 1,400 liters of Gel fuel for distribution to members of communities. In this regard, the programme considered Health Workers to be the beneficiaries of the first phase of distribution because of their role of daily interaction with community members, I believe you will leave this forum and remain the true ambassadors of clean cooking.

PLWDs are not left out and their representatives across the County are also present in this forum to witness and be part of this initiative and are hereafter commissioned to be Clean Cooking Ambassadors.

Due to limited resources, the County Government may not be in a position to give sample stoves to all the 300,745 households in Kisumu, but will continue to create awareness about the available Clean Cooking Solutions across all the 70 Village Units. Today marks the launch of this Clean Cooking Programme and distribution of these stoves and fuels is expected to run across various sub-counties in the next three days. This is just the beginning of this sensitization initiative and we are committed to upscale this programme in the near future to reach every corner of Kisumu County. I have been reliably informed that the Gel fuel we are starting to distribute today is ***smokeless, non-toxic & non-explosive, burns longer and gives a higher heat out-put than conventional cooking wood energy, charcoal and kerosene***, meaning it's a perfect fit for our households.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

As you may be aware, Kisumu County already developed a Climate Change Policy and Act, 2020 and Draft Sustainable Energy Policy is due for completion in the FY 2020/21. These policies provide frameworks to guide the County Government, private sector and other public institutions in limiting emissions from the county's energy sector as well as addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially Goals No. 7 and 13: To ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impacts respectively.

I want to urge private sector players, CBOs and NGOs (Local & International) to take advantage of enabling policies created by our county to exploit all investments opportunities, continue with innovation and support to Kisumu residents in all ways possible.

We also encourage community members to show case their initiatives and innovations as I've witnessed today and impact their areas of implementation. I wish to encourage everyone to continue supporting these initiatives and any other investment towards Clean Energy in Kisumu County.

**In addition,**

Some of the Initiatives by the Kisumu County to ensure Sustainable Energy for all include;

- Promotion of adoption of Solar Lanterns, Solar Home Systems (SHS), Solar Water Heating etc. For use by the communities as a means of creating awareness towards reduction of GHG emission and Indoor Air Pollution.
- Installation of Solar Lights and Flood Lights at the market centres to increase business hours and improve security.

- Energy Audits in public facilities e.g. Health facilities, Water pumping stations etc. and support implementation and efficient application of Renewable Energy technologies.
- Construction of Renewable Energy Centre of excellence at Masogo/Nyang'oma Ward in Muhoroni Sub-County. The Energy Centre once completed will be used for capacity building and trainings of technicians on Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation activities. All energy related meetings like this one will also be held in the Energy Centre.
- Implementation of **“Towards 100% Renewable Energy in Cities and Regions for Climate Change Mitigation “project.** The project is supported by International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and aims to effectively implement local climate action by developing a roadmap towards

community wide “100% Renewable Energy strategy and action plan, increase local awareness and stakeholder’s engagement as well as contribute to national climate and energy targets of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

As I conclude, I want to thank private enterprises and companies who came all the way to showcase their innovations and products. Ensure that you all share your locations so that people can reach you when they require your products.

I want to sincerely thank and encourage all our development partners to continue pooling together their synergy to support Kisumu County to adequately address the energy related challenges. We are very grateful for your efforts including your contribution towards the success of this initiative.

I'm very much aware that we recently signed MoU and Commitment with some partners who are here with us.

- **Clean Cooking Association (CCAK) and Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)**, to among other commitments promote adoption of Clean Cooking Solutions in Kisumu. Be assured that we remain committed to progress this initiative to the next level.
- **Biogas International Ltd.** Your quest to transform waste to energy is vital to us at this time when the city is generating tons of solid wastes daily.
- **Practical Action, Eastern Africa.** Women in Energy Enterprises in Kenya Phase Two (WEEK II) project in Kisumu is very important particularly to our women energy entrepreneurs who are already recruiting in to the project, as it boost their entrepreneurial skills and economic worth.

At this juncture, I wish to end my remarks and declare Kisumu County Clean Cooking Forum officially opened and if possible be held annually. I wish you well as you plan to proceed with the same activity in Nyando and Kisumu West Sub-counties.

*Thank you all and keep safe during this season of covid-19 pandemic*