

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SPEECH BY H.E PROF PETER ANYANG' NYONG'O, EGH-
GOVERNOR, KISUMU COUNTY, DURING THE
WHITECANE DAY – 29TH OCTOBER 2020**

Chairpersons National Council for Persons with Disabilities

Ag, CEO National Council for Persons with Disabilities

CEO Kenya Society for the Blind

County Commissioner

Speaker Kisumu County Assembly

*All CECs, Chief Officers and Senior National and County Government
officers present here,*

City Manager

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen. Good Morning.

Allow me to first convey to you warm greetings from our Governor, H.E Prof Peter Anyang' Nyong'o who was to be with us here today but had to rush elsewhere to attend to an emergency.

But before I read this speech, kindly join me in congratulating Prof Nyong'o for having been declared the Best Performing First Term Governor in the country in an opinion poll released by InfoTrack Research.

In the poll, released yesterday, Kisumu also emerged fourth overall in the best performing Counties after Kakamega, Kwale and Makueni.

For this, we thank the people of this great county, the County Assembly and our own staff for their support.

We will continue to deliver on our promises contained in our development manifesto because there is work to be done and it must be done.

Turning to today's ceremony, Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to sincerely thank The National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) and the Kenya Society for the Blind for partnering with the Kisumu County government to make this day a reality.

This day is celebrated across the globe to create public awareness on blindness and vision impairment.

The theme for this year's celebrations is "My Cane my Right to Inclusion."

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to inform you that the County Government of Kisumu attaches great importance to matters pertaining to Persons with Disabilities.

Long before other counties thought about it, Kisumu was already mainstreaming disability issues into its various policy frameworks.

Kisumu County has a population of 1,155,574 people, according to the 2019 population census. Out of this, about 39,929 are persons with various disabilities (PWDs).

As a government, we have tried our best to take great care of this segment of the population because many of them have special needs. We have tried to accord them full rights and privileges as granted by the Kenyan Constitution.

We have strictly adhered to the constitution that requires that we set aside 30 per cent of contracts to PWDs.

I wish to report here that 43 of the companies doing contracts with the Kisumu County Government are registered and owned by PWDs. As at today, these companies have done business with us worth Ksh 53 million. Yet this is just the beginning.

On employment and provision of equal opportunities, It is important to note that the Kisumu County Government has employed 124 People Living with Disabilities across all carders. One of them is Mheshimiwa Caroline Agwanda, who as the Governor's advisor on Disabilities, has done a wonderful job.

Ms Agwanda plays a unique role in the government by linking us with the Persons with Disabilities. She is well known for her fight for the rights of PWDs. While serving as a nominated MCA at the Kisumu County Assembly in the first quarter, Ms Agwanda introduced a motion

and pushed it to become law -The Disability Act.

As a County Government, we are working with the relevant bodies representing PWDs to set up a Regional Adaptive Technology Hub for the Visually Impaired at this center.

We are grateful to the Kenya Society for the Blind for donating 10 computers to the County that will be installed at a strategic point to assist the Visual Impairment Persons access information.

The County Government of Kisumu will continue strengthening partnerships with Partners and Stakeholders and organizations of persons with disabilities to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as ensuring disability is mainstreamed in SDGs implementation and by so doing, leaving no one behind.

I therefore urge all partners and stakeholders to work together in making eye care an integral part of our health coverage in Kisumu County, as well as continuing in engaging and empowering people and communities about eye care needs.

It is also important to create a conducive environment for persons with visual impairment to enable them have access and enjoy social, economic and political benefits that accrue from the development processes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I also wish to inform this gathering that the County Government of Kisumu will be signing Memorandum of Understanding with the Kenya Society of the Blind to help improve service to visually Challenged members of the Public.

This memorandum of Understanding with the Kenya Society for the Blind, emanates from the Kenyan Constitution, the Persons with Disabilities Act

(Cap 133 of 2003),Section 3 (c) of the Kisumu County Persons with Disabilities Act,2016; the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) and other International Human Rights instruments and treaties as provided for under Articles 2(5) and 2 (6) of the Constitution.

The MOU seeks to achieve the following:

- 1. Facilitate the provision of Quality and affordable Eye Drops, optical Equipment and Products to Kisumu County Referral Hospital in Kisumu.**
- 2. Establishment of Information, Communication Technology Hub for persons with visual impairment in Kisumu**
- 3. Establishment of an Office for Kenya Society For the Blind**
- 4. Mainstream disability in Kisumu County by sensitization, training adaptation of materials and development of an ultramodern inclusive wellness center.**

In conclusion Ladies and Gentlemen, On behalf of the County Government of Kisumu, I sincerely thank the Kenya Society for the Blind for donating 100 white canes to Visual Impairment Persons in Kisumu County.

As you know, the white cane is a vital tool which assists the visually-impaired persons to move freely and safely. It is a symbol of independence.

With these few words I wish you all happy, healthy White cane day

May God Bless You May God Bless Kisumu County

Thank You.