



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

SPEECH BY KISUMU GOVERNOR, H.E PROF PETER ANYANG'O, EGH, DURING MADARAKA DAY CELEBRATIONS IN KISUMU, JUNE 1, 2021



Your Excellency the President and Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya, Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta; and Her Excellency the First Lady, Margaret Kenyatta;

His Excellency the President of Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye and Her Excellency the First Lady, Angeline Ndaybaha,

The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. William Samoei Ruto;

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Raila Amolo Odinga,

Fellow Governors present here today,

Hon. Cabinet Secretaries present;

Excellency Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

Hon. Senators, Members of Parliament and of County Assemblies,



Wananchi Wezangu, Mabwana na Mabibi kwa jumla

Hamjambo!!

- I would like to welcome you to this lakeside city of Kisumu, and to the Lake Region in general, on this great and memorable day when we are assembled here to celebrate Madaraka Day, the day when we achieved our internal self rule after being a British colony since 1920.
- Without the tremendous sacrifices that our nationalists made, and the blood that was shed by the freedom fighters, we would not perhaps be here today.
- These gallant sons and daughters of our motherland sacrificed themselves so that they could BUILD FOR A FUTURE KENYA which would be free, prosperous and united, providing all her citizens with a place to feel at home.



- Mr. President, let me thank you and your government most sincerely for what you have done in this region, my county in particular, in building for a better future for our people in terms of infrastructural development, creation of a promising investment climate and supporting trade and commerce.

- I will not dwell more on that since today, Your Excellency, you must exercise your bragging rights by telling this august gathering what your government has achieved in this region. How you have built for the future of this region.

- But let it be noted, Your Excellency, that most of what you have done, though their seeds were no doubt planted earlier, have flowered and flourished since the Handshake between you and your brother Raila since March 2018.



- Few Kenyans would disagree with the reasons that you gave for handshaking, and the nine principles you laid down as the foundations for a more resilient Kenyan nation.

- It was not only necessitated by the urgent need to restore peace, tranquility and unity in the country following the conflict-ridden elections, but more to ensure that we slay the dragon of inconclusive elections in general that periodically precipitate post elections conflicts, thereby substantially retarding our development.

- Mr. President we have no alternative in this country but to build a national, democratic, inclusive and developmental Kenya.

- And all these nine principles are well presented, in simple and persuasive language, in the document the two of you signed after that famous Handshake.



- On these, we should be able to build a nation for future generations.
- Mr. President, Kisumu has given Kenya some of the nation's happiest moments in our history.
- I do remember as a school boy the lyrics that Mama Uhurus sang in 1963 to propel KANU to a resounding victory in an election which historians have always referred to as the Kenyatta Elections.
- With Mzee Jomo Kenyatta and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga wearing the Luo traditional beaded cap and addressing huge impromptu rallies in 1964 as they drove to Bondo to open Jaramogi's new home, it was quite clear that a new era had dawned in Kenya.
- Mzee Kenyatta and Jaramogi were ready to build a nation for the future generations of Kenya.



- Subsequently, however, Kisumu saw sad moments that tarnished our nationhood and caused painful feelings of political exclusion among many Kenyan communities to the detriment of our national development agenda.
- Throughout all this period, Kisumu has never turned its back on Kenya. We were nationalists in 1963.
- We remain nationalists today, embracing Kenya as one indivisible nation where all communities belong, happy to feel at home as one family in a national, democratic and developmental Kenya.
- This is the essence of the Building Bridges Initiative: to build for the future that our founding fathers yearned for. You and your brother Raila have once more recommitted yourselves to this noble mission.



- Please don't look back, for, as the Christian song goes:

Once to every man and nation

Comes a moment to decide

Then it is the brave man chooses

While the coward stands aside.

- Mr. President I would also like to take this opportunity to plead with you to continue supporting devolution because it works and it is good for Kenya's agenda for political inclusion and a shared national prosperity up to the grassroots.
- The decision to hold national celebrations on a rotational basis across the counties, is not only innovative on your part, but a visible and living demonstration that you are committed to devolution in building a prosperous Kenya, not just today, but for the future of our nation as well.



- Your government's commitment to promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has been embraced by all counties and surprising innovative measures have been taken in that regard from one county to another.
- In Kisumu county, for example, we have established maternity theatres in sub-county hospitals where mothers can now have cesarian section births outside Kisumu City.
- We are currently building a Comprehensive Cancer Care Center at the JOOTRH, complete with a complimentary sickle cell anemia treatment and research center, the first of its kind in Kenya.
- Finally, Your Excellency, let it not pass unnoticed that you have today laid the foundation stone for building the Kisumu Convention Center where Kenya will host the 9th Edition of Africities Summit in April next year.



- On behalf of the Lake Region Economic Block and the Council of Governors, I would like to thank you and your government for supporting this novel initiative of holding this continental gathering in an intermediary city like Kisumu.

- This is a clear message to all the 47 devolved governments that, working *interdependently* with our national government, we can open doors for development into the African continent and beyond.

- One of the key issues that the Africities summit will address itself on is the issue of greening the urban space to respond effectively to climate change issues, carbon emission and sustainable development.

- I thank you and all our guests for honoring Kisumu with this wonderful Madaraka Day celebrations.



God bless you all.

Let us all build for the future of our nation.

TICH TIRE.

A LUTA CONTINUA!!



A JOINT PRESS RELEASE ON STATE OF COVID-19 IN KISUMU

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media.

It is now confirmed that the Covid-19 pandemic is furiously rampaging through our Country, with daily rise in new cases. Deaths have also increased and hospitals are running out of beds. The situation is ballooning into a crisis and Kisumu is not spared.

A total of 1,025 cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed in Kisumu todate, from a test sample of 11,737. The County has recorded 12 deaths.

This morning, the Kisumu County Covid-19 Multi-Agency Committee held a meeting co-chaired by H.E the Governor, Prof Peter Anyang' Nyong'o and County Commissioner, Madam Josephine Ouko to address the rising number of Covid-19 cases in Kisumu.



The spike in the numbers now calls for urgent measures to avoid an explosion of the disease.

To help our people from this pandemic, we have issued to the following directives which must be adhered to with immediate effect.

1. THAT those appearing in public without masks or those not properly worn will face punitive measures in accordance to the Public Health Act. Law enforcers are under strict instructions to take action against such people.
2. THAT Public Service vehicle operators who will flout the Covid-19 safety guidelines by carrying excess passengers in their vehicles will face the law and their Sacco licenses withdrawn according to the Traffic and Public Health Acts. All PSVs must also avail sanitizers to the passengers. They must also ensure all passengers boarding their vehicles have masks. This committee has today asked the Traffic Police commanders to ensure PSVs flouting these directives are not only impounded but their crew arrested and prosecuted.
3. Theses strict guidelines also applies to Boda bodas and Tuk tuks. The Tuk Tuks must carry half their capacities while the Boda bodas must each carry only One Passenger at a time.
4. Burial ceremonies must be restricted to a maximum of 200 mourners and bodies must be buried within 48 hours of being removed from morgues.
5. mass eating at funerals remain banned.
6. There SHALL be no night vigils with bodies. Those failing to comply will face the full force of the law.
7. Eateries and bars MUST observe strict Ministry of Health guidelines with regard to social distancing and closing hours.



8. All areas of worship must adhere to the measures prescribed by the Interfaith Committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
9. All outlets patronized by the public must install working Handwashing and sanitization stations. Noncompliance shall lead to immediate closure.
10. Patients placed on Home Based Care MUST strictly comply to the home-based care regulations. If found flouting such regulations, the offending patient will be placed at mandatory quarantine at their costs.
11. The vulnerable categories of the society, those above 60 years and people with underlying conditions are encouraged to work from home.
12. The Police and the Public health officials are under firm instructions to withdraw business licenses and close down any bar or hotel failing to observe Covid -19 guidelines, which include operating beyond the stipulated Curfew hours.

We would like to appeal to our people to adhere to these guidelines to help us fight this deadly disease.

Remember it all starts with each one of us. From the current statistics on the spread of the disease, No One is safe.

The situation has been made worse by the fact that the virus is now wholly living amongst us in our houses, offices, in markets and all other public places.

Kindly let us join hands in kicking Coronavirus out of Kisumu

Signed:

H.E. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o
Governor, Kisumu County

Madam Josephine Ouko
County Commissioner, Kisumu



DATED: OCTOBER 28, 2020

KISUMU