

H.E THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH DURING THE YOUTH PARTICIPATION FORUM ON 9/04/2015

Honorable Members present, all protocol observed, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We are gathered here today to commemorate the youth participation forum to incorporate and involve them in development. I am pleased and indebted at the same time to have successfully held the very first youth forum in Nyamira County through the rightful department. Indeed, to discover the vast potential of our county of possibilities, the need develop calls for a lot of involvement and partnership with the youth because you are the leaders of today and tomorrow. It is my pleasure to have you and I am pleased to be leading a youth that are categorically focused to see the very best out of Nyamira County. I want to promise you today that we are headed to i the right place and it has come at the most opportune time.

The youth in Kenya are one of the major assets for the newly established county Governments as they can contribute immensely towards enhancing governance not only at the county but also the national level. The challenge however is upon young people to mobilize and organize themselves in order to meaningfully participate in governance. Leaders at both the national and county level can on their part ensure youth engagement by creating a conducive environment that allows for young people's participation. A positive development in the country has been the realization by the youth that they are significant agents in community, national and now county development and as a result, they have increasingly been engaging in development initiatives and re-shaping political processes in their constituencies and also at the national level, mainly through youth organizations. An aggressive youth discourse has emerged as a result of these concerted efforts re-configuring the social roles and responsibilities of young people in the country

The youth are able to raise genuine concerns about issues affecting the society and offer workable options and solutions to existing challenges. Youth engagement in governance should go beyond giving views to formal consultation and dialogue that can guide decisions and genuinely represent a body of opinion. The engagement should form part of a process where young people progress to greater responsibilities and move away from being targets of outreach to being actively

engaged in the planning and implementation of development interventions. Such an engagement is likely to lead to a greater connection between planning and the realities of the county's population.

The future of Nyamira County depends on the determination of the youth. By calling you here, we want to partner with you in a manner so amicable, focusing on the mission of our county. The constitution emphasizes empowerment of the youth at county levels and beyond. It is with this thought that we have created a department of Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services where issues concerning youth are addressed.

I have initiated this forum to share experiences, ideas, knowledge so as to enable us uplift the standards of living of the youth in this county. The initiation of this youth forum promises changes to the lives of the youth of Nyamira County in all spheres of humanity. The youth of my county have for long been used for wrongful purposes, some of which have resulted in chronic drug use, making them vulnerable to grave dangers and unforgiving pandemics, some of which have shattered their dreams. We will not be quiet! We must put this to an end forthwith, and this is the way to go. We have begun.

It is in this regard that my government has instigated the following projects to enable the youth realize their dreams:

Bob ni Swag is one project that I have championed and professed. Actually, it is one of those projects that I have dubbed as flagship. The goal of the project is to improve financial inclusion and well-being of low income youth in Nyamira County. The project will also measure the uptake, savings outcomes, experiences and developmental impacts of Youth Savings Accounts for long term financial security of the Youth as a stimulus for economic development and poverty eradication in Nyamira County. Through my government, Bob ni Swag will undergo a profound revamp and serious face-lift, so as to suit the needed expectations of the entire youth. If utilized properly, I want to promise you that we will go all smiling to the end – you can take this statement to the bank.

I have no doubt in my mind that the 30 per cent procurement rule is up and running. The biggest challenge however, is that our youth are not engaging to partake in this discourse by following due process. My government will try as

much as possible to help in engineering mechanisms that will make it friendlier and easier to get to these avenues. I call for your patience as we try to make it possible for you to access the certificates within our county for the above exercise. Making your life easier and comfortable is our responsibility.

Participation in the beautification of the county through the department of environment is another project that we put in place to help the youth and at the same time make our county an aesthetic. As one of our environmentalists said, nature is so unforgiving. If we destroy nature, nature will destroy us. On the same note, I want to thank Miss Tourism Nyamira Chapter for a job well done. In fact, we are lucky to have an environmental ambassador. With her, my government sits confidently that she is in control, in liaison with the concerned department to ensure a serene environment.

Providing of chicken to groups under agriculture, renovation and equipping of the youth polytechnics, moving to the talent academy, and the stadia development in Manga where the youth can exploit their talent; use of labor based approach to open access to roads where the youth are engaged, up to and including the Governor's soccer cup, just but to mention, are avenues put in place for the uplift of the youth as relates sustainability.

Ultimately I believe Nyamira youth should make up their own minds about what serves Nyamira County interests. We trust your judgment, the judgment of the young generation. We believe that when you control your destiny – if you got a handle on your governments – then governments will promote freedom and opportunity, because that will serve you.