

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, HON JOHN OBIERO  
NYAGARAMA, GOVERNOR OF NYAMIRA COUNTY, ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE MASHUJAA DAY HELD AT NYAMAIYA  
STADIUM, NYAMIRA, ON OCTOBER 20, 2015

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Hon Speaker of the County Assembly

Hon. Members of the County Assembly

County Commissioner

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

My fellow citizens of Nyamira County,

It gives me pleasure to join you on this occasion that marks the sixth Mashujaa Day celebrations in our beloved country, Kenya. Great strides have been made in this country in the past 52 years when Kenya became independent.

We could not be here today were it not for the sacrifice and determination of freedom fighters to grant us independence from the chains of colonial rule. We salute and honour them.

Let me take this opportunity to wish this year's KCSE and KCPE candidates all the best in their ongoing examinations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The objective of this great occasion is to remember and honour the unselfish men and women who made significant contributions towards the liberation of this great nation.

Apart from these freedom fighters there are other Kenyans who have made significant contributions in the business sector, education, science and other fields.

Today, I salute men and women who have actualized the dream of devolution in this country.

They have tirelessly worked hard to ensure the structures and systems of devolved units have a seamless operation. These are our Mashujas. We salute and honour them too.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Access to health services remains to be a priority for my government. When you elected me as Governor, one of the key barriers to access health services was the geographical challenge; most people had travel on average 7km to access a health facility especially in remote areas.

Health workforce was inadequate, supply of essential commodities was erratic and inadequate and equipment was either lacking or broken down among other challenges that impeded access to essential health services.

We have since increased the capacity by employing more health workers, acquiring ultra modern equipment and renovating our facilities.

Last year, we installed a 16-slice Computerized Orthomography Scan (CT Scan) therefore becoming the first public hospital in the Lake Basin region with such a facility. Currently, the CT Scan serves an

average of five to eight patients in a day. Before we obtained the CT Scan, patients had to travel to either Eldoret or Nairobi to access these services. We have also set up a Renal Dialysis Unit.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last week, Nyamira was chosen to host this year's World Food Day Celebration at Rigoma, a global function that was very successful as you all witnessed. This is a clear indication that international organizations and the National government have noticed the potential our county has in the sector and the tremendous steps we have taken:

- Through collaboration with Smallholder Dairy Commercialization Programme, my government supported Kineni Cooperative Society with a 5000-litre capacity milk bulking and collection cooler and installed a 50,000 litre capacity water tank. Likewise, my Government collaborated with Eastern Africa Agricultural Productivity Project to support Nyamira Peri-urban Cooperative Society with 1300 capacity milk cooler.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Apart from setting up a modern stadium at Manga whose construction is ongoing, my government is also set to start renovating Nyamaiya stadium this financial year. This will enable our youth to utilize the facilities with a view to developing their talents.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Devolution has provided a perfect platform for millions of Kenyan workers, entrepreneurs, and farmers for their contribution towards steady nation building.

The functionality of the county depends on several factors. However, there are still a number of challenges that face county governments. One such challenge is the deliberate delay in releasing of funds to the counties. This has resulted to delayed payment of salaries and bills thereby causing anxiety among workers and suppliers. The delays occasioned since July 2015 are grounding Counties to a halt.

We are also calling for an urgent summit meeting by the end of the year to discuss thorny issues including- the state of the economy and the slow implementation of previous Summit resolutions.

The Council of governors notes that the timeline that had been allocated for the complete transfer of all functions assigned to County Governments lapses in March 2016. The limited transfer of functions to County Governments will inevitably culminate into a constitutional crisis if not remedied within the mentioned time frame.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Recently my government in collaboration with the national government inaugurated Huduma Centre in Nyamira to bring services closer to the people of Nyamira.

Plans are almost culminating for the county to have its first public university at Kiabonyoru High School.

My government has recently acquired more road construction equipment to improve our roads across the county. Also, the county has developed a Mechanical and Transport Fund whose purpose is to ensure sustainable maintenance and utilization of the equipment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We erected 100 street light poles in various markets in the last financial year. My government is in the process of acquiring 235 street lights to ensure security and encourage a 24 hour economy in Nyamira County.

The Department of Public Administration and Coordination of Decentralized Units has an elaborate structure that provides for lower units that are closer to the people. I expect the staff in these offices to effectively coordinate service delivery to the citizens through consultation, networking and collaboration with other stakeholders on the ground.

Recently, my government in collaboration with the national government operationalized the County Disaster Management Committee in readiness for the impending El Nino. I take this opportunity to urge our people to be cautious about the risks associated with El Nino such as flooding, landslides, lightning, waterborne diseases and destruction of property. My government and the national government are constantly sensitizing the citizens on preparedness and mitigation measures to be undertaken during this period. We have established an emergence response unity whose telephone mobile numbers are: 0702 271 007 and 0701 185 250

As I conclude, may I remind you to endeavour to honestly serve our homeland. Let us stand firm to defend our heritage and splendor.

Thank you very much and may God bless you.